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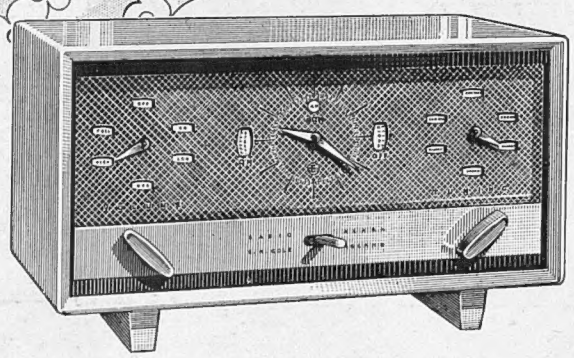

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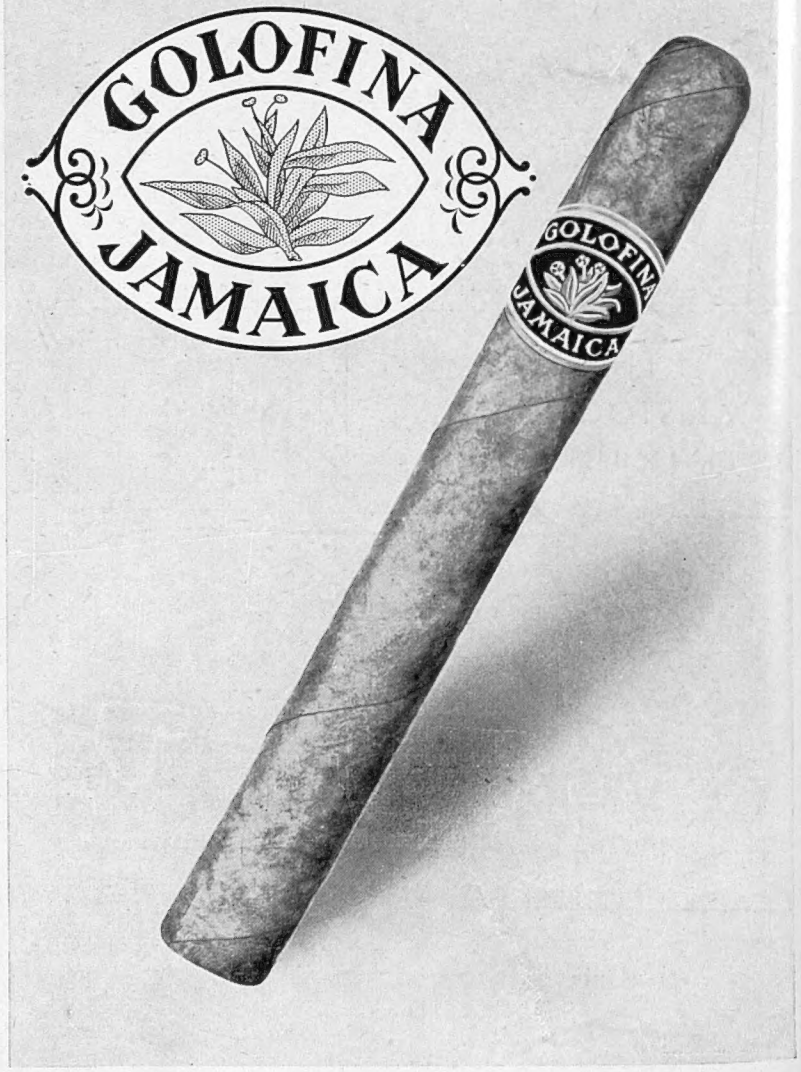

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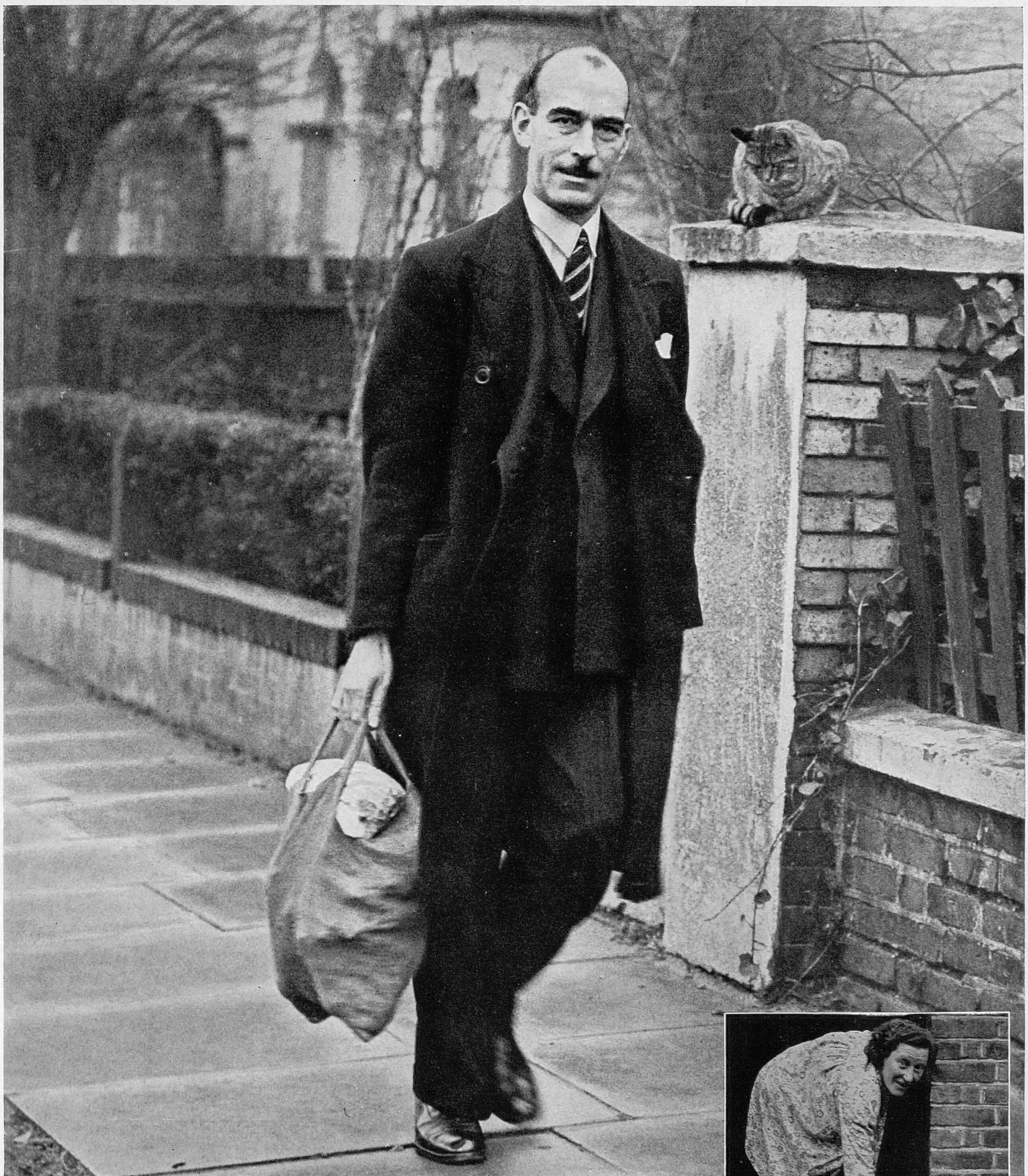

MR. BELCHER'S WEEK-END—THE CENTRAL FIGURE AT THE CHURCH HOUSE INQUIRY RETURNS TO HIS HOME IN SYDNEY ROAD, ENFIELD, WITH A LADEN SHOPPING-BAG: Mrs. Louise Belcher, who gave evidence on Friday of last week, is seen (*inset on right*) **collecting milk bottles from her doorstep.** (See also pages 374-75)

Mr. and Mrs. John Belcher spent last week-end at their home in Sydney Road, Enfield, after both of them had undergone on Friday the ordeal of being cross-examined by the Attorney-General in front of the Church House Tribunal. On Saturday Mr. Belcher went out to do the family shopping, and later he took the children for a walk—Jill, aged seven, and the four-year-old twins, Mary and John. Last week, before giving evidence, Mr. Belcher announced that he was resigning his post as Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, but that he would continue as M.P. for the Sowerby Division. Last Friday, after the hearing, Mr. Belcher, indeed, attended the House of Commons. Facing the prospect of a 50 per cent. pay-cut, Mrs. Belcher declared in an interview: "I 'm glad now I saved, and that I never stopped saving, even when my husband's salary made everything seem secure and settled. I 'm glad that in my heart I never stopped being a railway clerk's wife"

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A LONDON NEWSLETTER

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Too Much Power.—

Mr. Churchill made a fair comment when he spoke of the arrogance of the Government in its new fashion of ignoring the Opposition in all matters of foreign policy. I think it is clear that it is a new (and an evil) fashion. The whole fabric of our peculiar form of party, democratic government—which has suited our national character and won the envy of the world—has rested on the principle that the Opposition of to-day is the potential Government of to-morrow, that it is a vital unit in the machinery of Government, and that it is entitled as of right and for the soundest reasons to be kept up-to-date in all plans, efforts and negotiations with foreign powers which the Government has in hand. For in theory it may have to take over the reins to-morrow. The arrogance of the Government in this particular and its high-handed attitude and truculence in many others, has been due to three main causes—a most undesirably large majority in the Commons, a lack of experience in the traditions and practice of Government, and the self-doubting which in some minds invariably shields itself by truculence. Jealousy of Mr. Churchill may well have contributed also. It is at least comforting to feel that probably the worst of the evil is now over. It is unlikely that in the next decade any Government will possess so vast a majority in the Commons—the one thing which makes nonsense of our otherwise effective form of Government. It is quite certain that the arrogance of the Socialist leaders has received some fearful jolts from recent events, and it is probable that even Mr. Morrison may find it desirable to curb his arrogance. As for Mr. Bevin and Mr. Attlee, both have revealed from the start at least a *soupçon* of the essential attribute of a great man—humility. Between them, they possess more of it than a score of their understrappers and the discipline of experience may have increased their store of it. Mr. Attlee must realise to-day that it is not so easy to pick a team of good men and true to run the King's Government, and Mr. Bevin that to keep the King's peace may demand more knowledge of history and diplomatic tradition and more skill in diplomacy than one man, coming fresh to the job, can usually command without the assistance of those best qualified to advise of whatever party. The damnable heresy which this Government has encouraged is that foreign policy is a party matter. Such a heresy is certain death to the party system.

Mr. Belcher's Decision.—

The Church House Inquisition goes eternally on along its dingy road and still, as on the opening day, the matter is *sub judice* and our lips are sealed. But the decision announced by Mr. Belcher (at a rather surprising juncture—for it might have been made later or sooner) is one for comfort. It upholds (as still alive) our national code of morality. A Minister of the Crown does not accept presents, however innocently received, from persons who might hope to derive commercial advantage from putting him "in their debt." How strictly interpreted in the "bad old days" was the principle of a Minister's duty to cut away any *temptation* to use influence for personal reasons, is recalled to me by a recollection of Lord Lansdowne, on accepting office, parting at a great sacrifice with a block of shares in an industry concerned with his office. Those, of course, were the days when still a ruling class filled, from father to son, many of the offices of State. We call them the bad old days. Perhaps no days, no age, no persons, are altogether bad. Mr. Belcher has done right to acknowledge that principle "off his own bat," and Mr. Attlee will surely agree with him. It is perhaps the first ray that has shone out of the Church House smudge-fire

Sir Stafford's Exhortations.

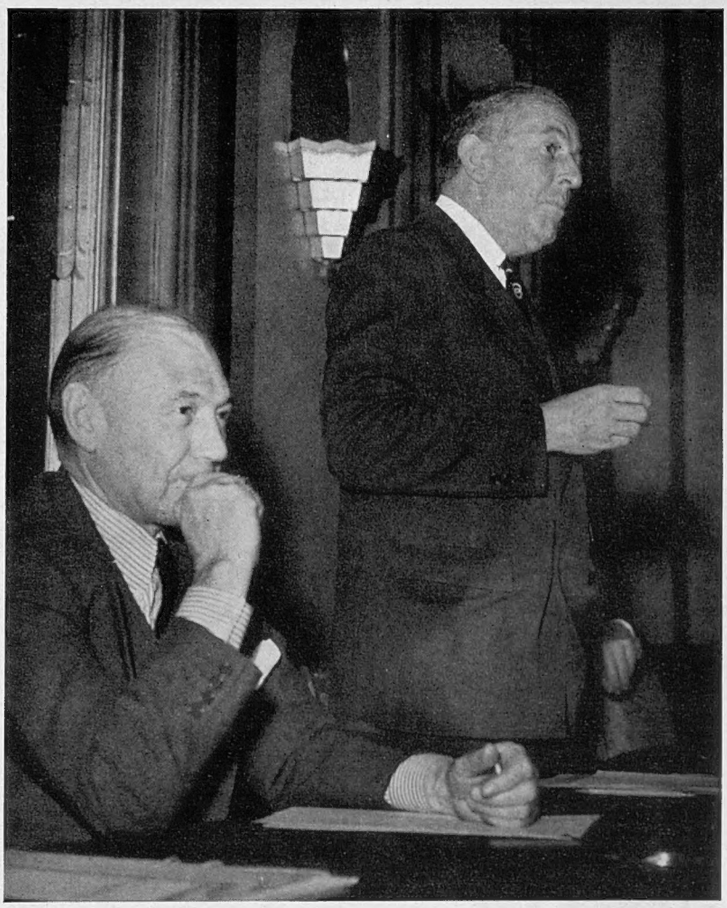
—December is always a dreary time of year, and gleams of light have been rarer in the Press than in Nature. Church House is enough to guarantee December doldrums. Add the debate on Defence and National Service; I confess I could hardly endure to read it, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Shinwell both gave me the impression of defendants mouthing from the dock a prepared defence to which they attached no confidence themselves and from which they expected no credence. Add the Ministry of Labour's figures of wage increases since industry was "put on its honour" to curb salary increases: 6,000,000 workers have received increases of about 5s. a week. And still it goes on. Sir Stafford must reckon himself the voice of one crying in the wilderness and no John Baptist can ever have received more dusty answers to his exhortations towards moderation, discipline, thrift, good citizenship than those evidenced in so many of our daily news-items of chief interest. And the ship drives on with increasing cynicism and disillusion at the prow and increasing diffidence and futility at the helm. Moody and Sankey, no doubt, were luckier in their era as revivalists; or more convincing on the platform.

R.A.F. Recruiting.—

Some articles in the *Lancashire Daily Post* at the end of November by Mr. C. G Grey on the subject of R.A.F. recruiting well deserve reprinting. The first of them, with curious exactitude, anticipated the essence of Lord Trenchard's shrewd remarks in the Lords' debate on that vital subject. Do we want a strong and effective Air Force? In *theory*, yes. Government, industry, everyman, knows in his heart that until we have it, we are naked to our enemies and plough the sand. We may increase our exports with help from American wizards and one day balance our budget; but without military defences we only fatten ourselves for the despoiler. What we want is American advice on how to recruit and *hold* volunteers. They know the job. They draw them in with "glory" propaganda, hold them with good cheer, discipline, good cooking, instruction, entertainment. Our Government and R.A.F. pundits beckon them in timorously by a back door, starve them with indifferent cooking, pretend to educate them, fear to discipline them, treat that vital corps, the *officers*, as something to be apologised for in our new democracy. The story and glory of the R.A.F. in two world wars (which twice saved us from slavery) is all the propaganda needed, if it were handled as it should be. Those who bungle and botch the whole subject of defence entertain surely the lowest possible opinion of the British character. They have long since written off chivalry and love of adventure. They conceive that the only carrot to tempt the donkey is a rise in pay (and niggardly always at that). What price Glory? A government of shop-walkers and nimble accountants may suit a nation of shopkeepers but cannot keep a great nation great and strong.

Gambling — Another Royal Commission. —

In 1933 Mr. Justice Rowlatt's Royal Commission presented an exhaustive report recommending far-reaching changes in the law of betting and its machinery. That report is largely pigeon-holed and betting is more rampant than ever. In 1937 Sir A. Herbert introduced a private bill based on those recommendations. It was stillborn. Since then, Chancellors have seen the point of some minor efforts to "cash in" on this public vice. The Prime Minister recently suggested, if not promised, to "set up a Royal Commission" on the whole subject of gambling, betting, pools, lotteries and so forth. It is as if he had never heard of the Rowlatt Commission. It is as clear as paint that still as of old a Royal Commission is a Premier's umbrella with which to ward off a tiresome subject. It would be interesting to know what percentage of the recommendations of the latest twenty Royal Commissions have been seriously considered to the point of implementation or rejection. Would it be 10 per cent.? I doubt it. Gambling is a fearful evil; it kills thrift and encourages most of the vices of bad citizenship. Everybody knows it. The football pools business in particular is an ulcer. But it is the people's circus; or one of them; and a General Election looms. *Ergo*, an umbrella is indicated until the sky is clear again. The House of Commons is apt to be embarrassingly outspoken, and even Government supporters will sometimes revolt for conscience' sake. A.P.H. hits the bull on this particular subject. No Government ever dares to lay violent hands on any public "circus," however vicious.



THE AGENT OF AMERICAN AID—MR. PAUL HOFFMAN, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE EUROPEAN RECOVERY PROGRAMME, GIVES HIS REASONS FOR INTERVENTION IN THE REPARATIONS QUESTION: Mr. Hoffman, who came to London on his way to China, is seen with Mr. Lewis Douglas, the United States Ambassador, as he addressed a Press Conference. His main theme was that of German dismantling and the theory that German industrial plants now scheduled for dismantling for reparations purposes could with greater advantage to European Economic Recovery be retained in Germany—a view that has caused misgivings in France and in some quarters in Britain. After the conference, Mr. Hoffman left for Shanghai, where he will study the operation of American Aid in the light of the Nationalist debacle

Gambling Trends.—

Austerity appears to have an effect at least on some forms of gambling. Others, we know, grow fatter on austerity. Irish hospitals depend very much on the Irish Lotteries Sweepstakes, and the published figures of their receipts are significant. Thus, receipts for the Derby this year were down 50 per cent.. The draw for the Cambridgeshire was down by nearly as much, with much the same figures From these huge gross figures the hospitals get, it is true, not quite 25 per cent., but still it is a handsome, if precarious, contribution. Government stamp duty is a little below 25 per cent. of total "working expenses," which come out at about 30 per cent. of the gross receipts. What are the causes of the drop in receipts? Some say the unsettled condition of the world; which I doubt. Some say the currency question—perhaps so. A more likely cause may be the Government's prohibition of the use of postal facilities for the purpose. On the whole it is good news, except to the Irish hospitals

Green Belts and Scraps of Paper.—

Plus ça change.

The dreary old tag comes in again. "Planning" is "go as you please" as in the bad old days; assurances are still scraps of paper; and co-ordination between departments as far away as ever. The Ministry of Planning is a farce. The County of London plan of 1943, approved by the L.C.C., reserved the grounds of Holland House and neighbouring large gardens for preservation as open spaces to ensure the essential acreage of open space per 1,000 population. Socialist propaganda assured us in poetic imagery of a new green, bowered London, and green belts. Now the Ministry of Works is negotiating for part of Holland House garden for a scientific building, and the L.C.C. has torn up the London plan without notice and proposes to turn into bricks and mortar 10 acres of Campden Hill's surviving gardens. Here you have it, as of old. Scores of authorities, all grabbing and competing against each other, and the public's trustee and safeguard power less or uninterested. Putney and Wimbledon Common are similarly threatened. Houses are needed for people to live in . . and for propaganda statistics against 1950; but houses should be built to a plan and that plan should safeguard the existing population no less than the proposed population. The hideous havoc of the ribbon-development era has left a permanent mark on England. In one particular it was less absolute in its destruction than the age of planning. The few surviving men of taste between-the-wars could at least hold on to what was theirs of beauty and greenery, if they could resist the lure of profit.

THE OLD STAGER

THE PRINCE AND HIS CHRISTENING CAKES

Preparations for Last Wednesday's Ceremony at the Palace

THE SILVER CRADLE, COMPLETE WITH BABY, SURMOUNTING THE ECONOMY CHRISTENING CAKE: The ingredients for this cake were supplied by the Girl Guides of Australia. On one of the lower panels the Girl Guides' badge was shown

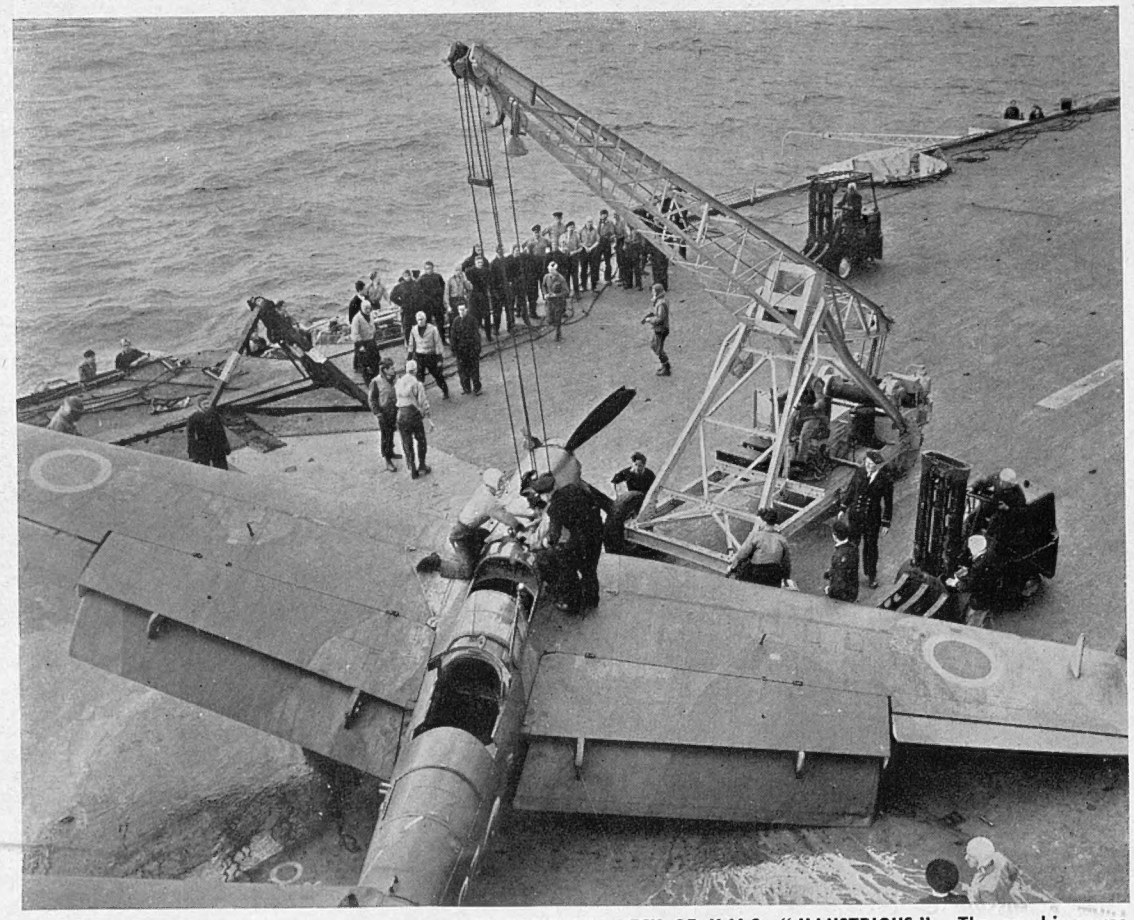
THE ECONOMY CHRISTENING CAKE, OR CHRISTENING CAKE NO. 1: This is actually the modified top tier of the Royal wedding cake made by McVitie and Price on the occasion of the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. The decorations remained the same except for the addition of some icing in support of the cradle surmounting the 30-lb cake

THE BABY PRINCE TAKES A PRE-CHRISTENING OUTING IN THE GROUNDS OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE: Sister Helen Rowe wheeling the Royal baby in the same pram which his mother and aunt (Princess Margaret) used in the days of their infancy. Princess Margaret has had several outings with her young nephew. It was decided to keep the Prince's names a close secret until the christening last Wednesday, a distinct departure from Royal precedent

ROYAL CHRISTENING CAKE NO. 2: More than eighty eggs, rum and brandy, 9 lbs. of sugar, 11 lbs. of fat, and 25 lbs. of fruit were among the ingredients of the cake prepared for the Royal baby's christening by students of the National Bakery School, who are seen standing round their handiwork. The cake was 36 ins. high. It was presented to Princess Elizabeth by the Master Bakers

But for the King's illness the christening of the young Prince would probably have taken place at Sandringham, where the King himself was christened fifty-two years ago. The ceremony was arranged for last Wednesday at the Palace, and all last week preparations were busily going ahead for the reception. Two christening cakes were given prominence, the Royal Family's cake being a modification of the top tier of Princess Elizabeth's wedding-cake. The cake made by the National Bakery School was a far more elaborate affair. On its panels were the coats of arms of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, and it was surmounted by the Royal crown

THE ESCORT DESTROYER "RAPID" IS REFUELLED FROM THE AIRCRAFT-CARRIER "ILLUSTRIOUS" DURING HEAVY WEATHER: This picture was taken during the early stages of the battle, in the course of which the homeward-bound Home Fleet, known as the Redland Force, steamed towards Plymouth, the main base of the Blueland Force. Throughout the exercise gale conditions prevailed, and the attacking warships came through to their objective almost unscathed. Many Bomber Command sorties had to be cancelled



CLEARING A DAMAGED BARRACUDA DIVE BOMBER FROM THE DECK OF H.M.S. "ILLUSTRIOUS": The machine was damaged when landing during gale conditions. There were several other mishaps because of the boisterous conditions, and one Fury, landing on the light fleet carrier "Theseus," was blown on its side. The carrier-borne fighters did excellent service in going out against the shadowing planes of the opposition

THE NAVY ELUDES BOMBER COMMAND

The Last Stages of an Elaborate Air-Sea Exercise

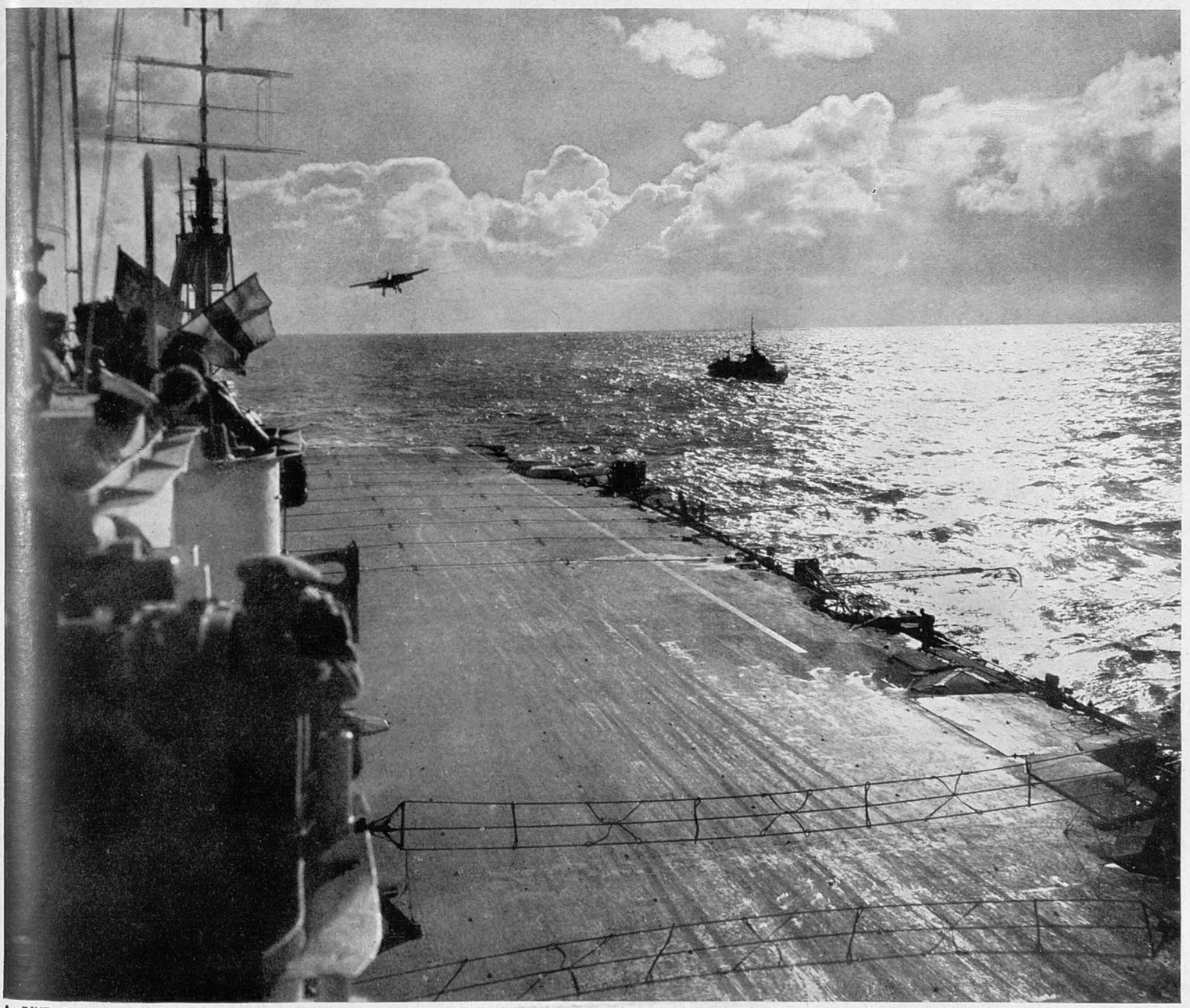
One lesson of the combined sea and air exercises which concluded in the English Channel last week-end was that in bad weather a fleet can approach our shores without being attacked successfully by Bomber Command. Attempts were made by Bomber Command to atom bomb the Fleet as it approached these shores, but heavy weather caused the attack to miscarry and the simulated bomb dropped by a lone Lancaster was held to have been slightly wide of the target area. Observers declared that only one ship would have been damaged.

While the Navy's work has been highly applauded, the R.A.F. has faced a battery of criticism. More than twenty fighting ships eluded the shadowing aircraft, sailing within 100 miles of the British coast without encountering any major air attack, and it is claimed that had the warships been equipped with guided missiles they might have shattered the defences of Plymouth or Portsmouth.

"WHEN THE SHIP GOES WOP, WITH A WIGGLE BETWEEN": Rough seas made it heavy going for H.M.S. "Finisterre" as she steamed towards Plymouth with the Red Force

THE ADMIRAL IS TRANSFERRED BY "JACK-STAY AND CHAIR": Rear-Admiral M. J. Mansergh, commanding the 3rd Carrier Squadron, crossing from H.M.S. "Duke of York" to H.M.S. "Finisterre." Men of the "Finisterre" are waiting to give a hand

HUGE SEAS BREAK OVER THE FLIGHT DECK OF THE AIRCRAFT-CARRIER "ILLUSTRIOUS": Looking along the flight deck of the carrier, from which operations had to be curtailed owing to very heavy weather



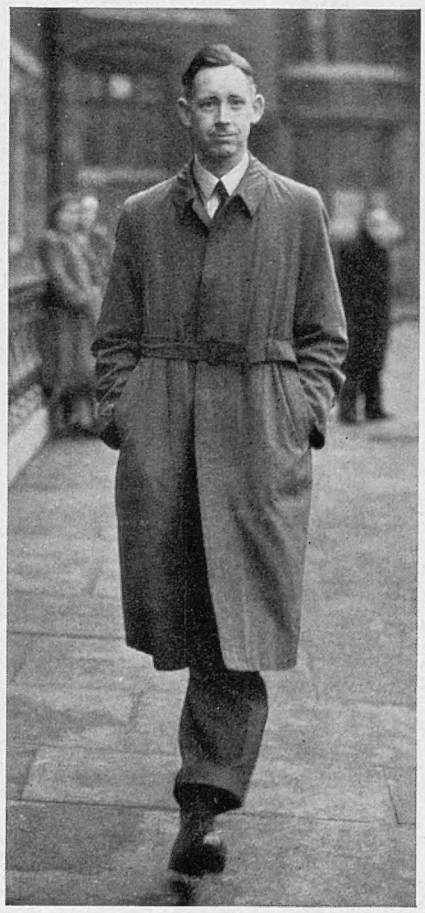
A DIVE BOMBER OF THE HOME FLEET RETURNING FROM A MISSION OF DESTRUCTION: A Barracuda above the flight-deck of the "Illustrious" during the running fight in which the Home Fleet engaged on its journey towards the English coast. In the background is the escort destroyer H.M.S. "Rapid," which accompanied the "Illustrious" throughout the voyage. The Barracudas are the most powerful dive bombers operating with the Fleet. They first distinguished themselves in action against the "Tirpitz," and played a vital part in many naval engagements. The Home Fleet's cruise to the West Indies and South Africa ended last week-end with an assault on the defences of Portsmouth. Rather more than half of the three months of the cruise were actually spent at sea

MR. GEORGE GIBSON, DIRECTOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTH-WEST ELECTRICITY BOARD, LEAVING CHURCH HOUSE AFTER GIVING EVIDENCE BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL: Mr. Gibson, the tall, stout figure in the centre of the picture, was one of last week's leading witnesses, and he was called upon to give evidence with regard to certain public flotations, notably a flotation for J. Jones (Manchester) Ltd. "As a director of the Bank of England you would have access to other members of the Capital Issues Committee and Treasury officials and Ministers?" Sir Hartley Shawcross asked Mr. Gibson. To this Mr. Gibson replied with marked emphasis: "No, no, no," only to hear Sir Hartley say "But surely it is 'Yes, yes, yes'?" On the first day of his evidence at Church House, Mr. Gibson heard the Attorney-General read a letter of introduction given by Mr. Gibson to Mr. Stanley's wife, Mrs. Lily Rechtand. The letter described Stanley as an "eminent business-man greatly concerned in the re-establishment of world trade and world prosperity"

THE CLOSING STAGES AT THE CHURCH HOUSE TRIBUNAL

Mr. Gibson, Mr. Key, and the Belchers Take the Witness Stand

MR. AND MRS. BELCHER LEAVE THEIR ENFIELD HOME FOR CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER: Both of them gave evidence before the Tribunal on Friday of last week, Mrs. Belcher being questioned at length regarding her savings and the domestic arrangements in the Belcher household. Mrs. Belcher collapsed after leaving the box



THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO MR. KEY: Mr. K. Newis, who figured in evidence relating to meetings between Mr. Key and Mr. Stanley and his associates which took place at Mr. Key's Ministry

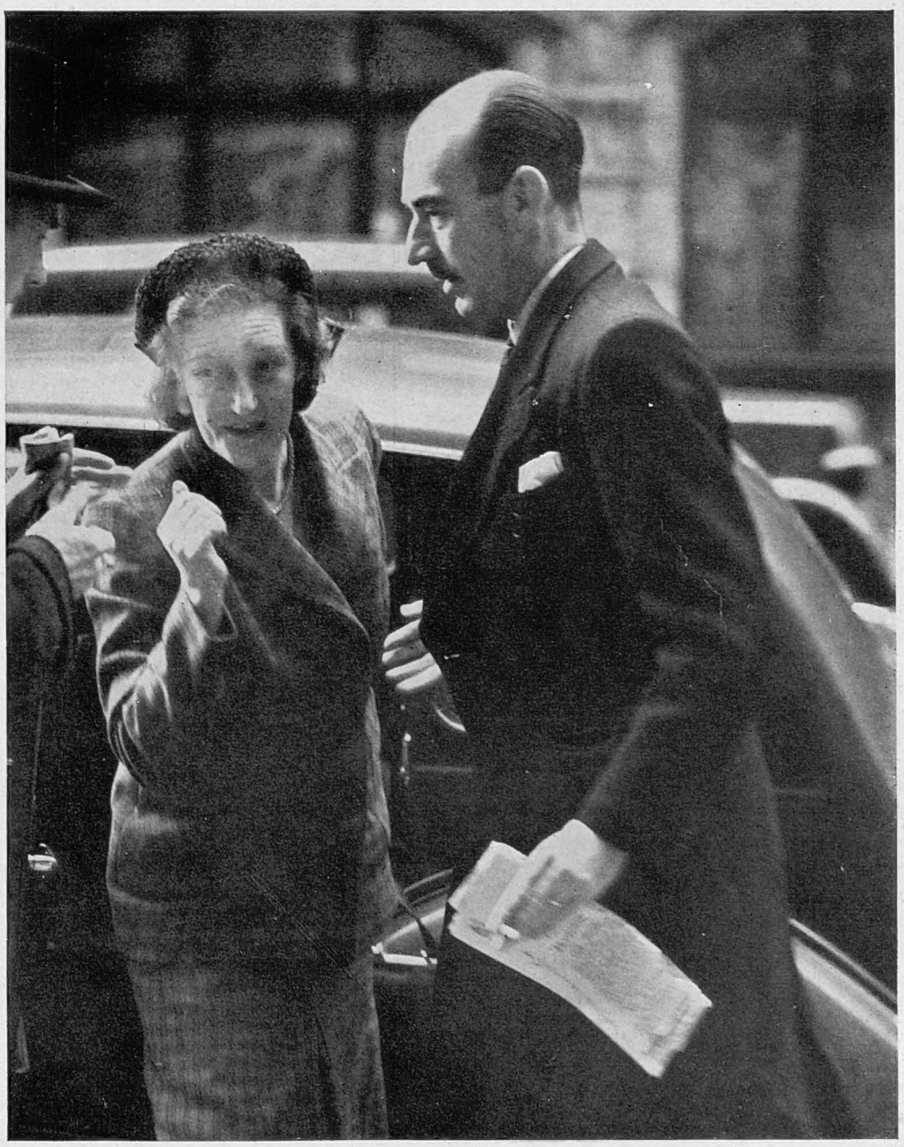
THE MINISTER OF WORKS, MR. CHARLES KEY: Referring to gifts Mr. Key declared in evidence that there were two occasions when he called at Mr. Stanley's flat to pick up a couple of bottles of whisky, one for a friend. On another occasion he got a bunch of eight or ten bananas. To equalise matters he gave Mrs Rechtand two rather beautiful dolls

WULKAN NO. 2 PROCLAIMS THAT HE IS READY TO FLY TO ENGLAND : Mr. Marcus Wulkan, brother of Mr. Sidney Stanley, in his New York office where, it has been stated, he makes a "meagre living" as organiser of the Polio Institute for Palestine. It was when Mr. Marcus Wulkan read the Attorney-General's suggestion that he was "a notorious confidence trickster and fraudsman" that he offered to fly to England in order to come before the Tribunal

MR. MARCUS WULKAN HOLDS A PRESS CONFERENCE IN HIS ELEVENTH-FLOOR OFFICE OFF WALL STREET, MANHATTAN : The brother of Sidney Stanley talking to Press correspondents after his name had figured in the Lynskey Tribunal evidence. "If Britain has a better champion than me I should like to meet him," declared Mr. Wulkan after he had been to the British Consulate in New York and demanded that the British Embassy in Washington issue an official denial that he is anything but a warm-hearted friend of Britain. Mr. Wulkan was turned down, despite his claims of friendship with Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks. He further stated "My brother is a golden-hearted, generous man. He gives presents all the time. There is nothing to it. Everybody does, don't they? I love the British people," he said. "Britain could rule Palestine to-day if she 'd gone about it the right way, as I 've told some of your officials. Believe me, 90 per cent. of the Zionist leaders in the world are counting on the day when they can sit down with the British again. I know these aren't popular views. They 've cost me many friends in the Zionist movement in America. Oh, how I 've suffered! It was me who first said publicly that the leaders of the 'Boycott Britain' campaign are a bunch of crooks"

SIDNEY STANLEY LEAVES COURT : Last week he told a reporter that when the inquiry was over he intended to go away to "think it over and find out who are my friends"

MRS. LILY RECHTAND, THE WIFE OF MR. SIDNEY STANLEY : Last week after appearing at the Tribunal it was announced that Mrs. Rechtand's evidence would not be required



MR. JOHN BELCHER, WHO IS RESIGNING HIS POST AS PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE, AND MRS. BELCHER ARRIVING AT CHURCH HOUSE : A few minutes after arriving at the Tribunal Mrs. Belcher was asked to take the stand and was faced with a battery of personal questions from the Attorney-General. Last week Mr. Belcher signified that he would not apply for the Chiltern Hundreds and would retain his seat in Parliament, carrying with it a salary of £1 000 a year. At the General Election in 1945 Mr. Belcher won the Sowerby Division of Yorkshire

SCANDALS THAT ROCKED GOVERNMENTS

Unsavoury Cases That Have Poisoned Politics

By FERDINAND TUOHY

IN glancing at past scandals which involved the honour or existence of Governments and regimes, one is struck by the number of cases that marked the decade 1887-1897.

I might have begun this compendium a little earlier—say, in the 1870's, when the post-Civil War period in the United States was splashed and spattered by official graft and corruption in lurid form, a condition that endured after the lax hero, President Grant, had stepped down. That interlude of public scandal was associated with "bourgeois democracy hitting the money-bags," and so was the subsequent manifestation in Europe.

But the American outbreak had characteristics setting it apart. It had something wild and of the border—was it not a growth of the precept that no gentleman should enter politics ?—and the effect was of a buccaneering jumble lacking the scandalous peaks. On that account I opt for *l'Affaire Daniel Wilson* as point of departure.

In 1885 Jules Grévy was re-elected third President of the French Republic. For nigh upon fifteen years, under Thiers, MacMahon and himself, the tone had been one of order and respectability. Grévy personified the moral climate in high places, narrow-minded, egoistic bourgeois that he was, thrifty, sensible and patriotic. But he had married his daughter to a man who nourished ideas of sudden wealth, and the means chosen by Daniel Wilson was the sale of the Legion of Honour.

The Elysée Palace itself was used as mart ground where Napoleon's own decoration was sold at a graduated figure.

To-day there are 25,000 Chevaliers, 4,000 Officers, 1,000 Commanders, 70 Grand Crosses and 22 Grand Officers. Wilson netted millions of the good francs of his time before the scandal burst. It brought the resignation of his father-in-law, the President, and the first of recurring blows at the moral structure of the Third Republic.

Paris was still agog over "dud" honours when a high wind indeed blew in from Panama. Ferdinand de Lesseps had been cutting his canal at sea-level for seven years. Malaria and yellow fever had terribly obstructed progress, but an unequalled extravagance and corruption had done more. By 1885 only one-tenth of the excavation had been done, credit was impaired, and it was necessary to resort to corrupt practices.

The influence of many Deputies and Senators was bought. The spider at the centre was a Jewish financier named Hirsch. In course of time none other than Clémenceau had to retire from the editorship of *La Justice* on account of his relationship with Hirsch.

Let one plunge into Panama figures suffice : Of 265,938,000 dollars expended up to the crash, only 156,684,000 dollars had been spent in Panama ! The rest had gone in buttering palms and in grandiose living, chiefly back in Paris. "*Paname*" is still French for the easiest of lush money.

It meant the end of De Lesseps, a brilliant engineer caught in the throes of *le beau monde* and politics at their most venal. A new company was formed with 200,000 shareholders, but failed to deliver the goods, and the concession was ultimately bought by the Americans for 40,000,000 dollars in 1902.

I omit Mayerling, because the violent ends of the Crown Prince Rudolf and the Baroness Vetsera did no more than jolt the Habsburg regime ; and pass to England.

The aura of respectability with which Gladstone was surrounded, much augmented the tremors to Liberal Government which were administered by the debasement of the moral code by a Parnell and a Charles Dilke. While it is a debatable point, which was the greater scandal, the Stealing of Kitty O'Shea or the Piggott Forgeries, altogether the Parnell Case delivered a body-blow to smug self-righteousness—for both Parnell and Dilke were English, and at the pinnacle.

The scene changes to Italy, where Crispi, last of the great Italian liberators of the nineteenth century, was in power in 1893. He who had been the partner of Mazzini and Garibaldi was now defamed as a swindler and evil-liver. His accuser was the Radical, Cavalotti, who violently opposed Crispi's pro-Prussianism and anti-clericalism.

Crispi weathered the first storm, but had to go three years later over the annihilating defeat at Adowa, when the old charges were taken up again. A parliamentary commission absolved the glamorous ex-Premier of all save illicit borrowing to fill empty Secret Service coffers, but Crispi's unfortunate private life and unscrupulous entourage had lowered Italian public life to a depth it did not plumb again for nearly thirty years.

Again the scene is France, and the scandal a resounding record-breaker, *L'Affaire Dreyfus*—or just "*L'Affaire*"—divided the nation into pro-Army, anti-Jew, and Dreyfusards defending republican justice and race equality, and more than tinged by anti-clericalism. The Case rocked Government after Government in the late '90's and was a "full house" : forgery, treachery, treason, cupidity, persecution, dishonour, suicide.

The Republic came through, and took on a new lease of life—its halcyon period, as time was to show—for fourteen years under Presidents Loubet and Faillières. There was one break, with the darkly suspect shooting of Deputy Severin, in 1906, but it had the saving aspect of giving a purified Clémenceau the reins for the first time ; and scandal turned its unsavoury breath on Germany.

The Harden Case was very unsavoury indeed, yet was widely relished for the posture in which it placed the Kaiser and his overbearing tribe. The Hohenzollerns were being about at their most objectionable when the Editor of *Zukunft*, Maximilian Harden, let fly with homosexual charges against the Court Camarilla led by Prince Eulenburg. The year was 1907. Count Cuno von Moltke took action for libel, but withdrew proceedings when the accusations were held justified. Eulenburg fled the Fatherland. Harden held that he had got level for Hohenzollern treatment of his hero, Bismarck.

The Marconi Case fell when party strife was so bitter that political hostesses could not invite the guests they wished. The Liberal Government was arranging a Wireless Imperial Chain, the contract for which, if passed by Parliament, was to go to the Marconi Company. While the contract was under discussion and shares were booming, there were rumours that the Managing Director, Godfrey Isaacs, had sold large holdings to three members of the Government.

The suggestion was that these Ministers with inside knowledge had been rewarded in return for urging on the Cabinet a contract unfairly advantageous to the Marconi Co. In view of the race of three concerned, the cry went up that sinister Jewish influence was at work. Cecil Chesterton was placed in the dock for criminal libel, but this time it turned out ill for the editorial chair. The Ministers had acquired shares in the American Marconi Co., not the British.

None the less, Mr. Asquith held that it would have been "more prudent to have abstained from all private financial dealings with the Managing Director of the English Company."

A year later, 1914, and it was a case of back to France and the Calmette Affair.

Joseph Caillaux, ex-Premier, now Finance Minister, was a Radical with Lloyd Georgian views on how to raise revenue, and that, coupled with an offending personality, had made him the most hated man in tight-fisted France. He must be removed, and Gaston Calmette, Editor of *Figaro*, undertook to do it with a campaign of unheard-of violence culminating in the publication of a love-letter written by Caillaux to his second wife while she was still the wife of another. It was signed "Ton Jo," and how Paris rocked !

Madame Caillaux shot Calmette to death in his office, and later declared in court : "I saw that my husband intended killing Calmette, and rather than that he should ruin his career I went and shot him myself."

"Not a bit of it," argued the other side. "The reason Madame Caillaux murdered Calmette, and with her husband's knowledge, was because the Caillaux pair knew Calmette possessed a report implicating Joseph Caillaux in the Rochette bank scandal."

I later knew Caillaux well as my "trained seal," or political expert at £20 a week. He had made finance almost a religious cult, and I, for one, don't believe he erred privately in that line. But, although Madame was acquitted, Monsieur's goose was cooked, and the scandal may have had its effect on the 1914 war, since, had Caillaux remained in the Government, he would have gone all out for a negotiated peace.

The dizzy '20's were enlivened in America by the Teapot Dome Scandal.

President Harding was a handsome and genial figure-head. When I met him in the White House, in October 1921, his chief interest was Paris—how he wished he 'd sent himself there, when a young editor at Marion, Ohio ! Easy-going with friends and disinclined to look too closely, Harding was oblivious to a political immorality without parallel at Washington until the lid blew off with Teapot Dome.

The Secretary of the Interior, Senator Albert Fall, had the Government's naval oil reserves transferred to his Department in 1923, and he and others, including two other Ministers were involved in accusations relating to the leasing of the Elk Hills and Teapot Dome Reserves. Had Harding not died the same year, his Administration might have been sunk under impeachments. All that happened, was a prison sentence on Fall, passed as late as 1931.

The nearest that Mussolini came to falling was over the Mateotti Affair, in 1924. This leading Socialist Deputy had got hold of dossiers which showed that the Fascist Party had kept itself in power by embezzlement. It was a delicate moment for the regime, and Mateotti had to be silenced at all costs. A brutal murder in the Campagna was the means employed.

And so back to Paris—where Kreuger, the Match King and guiding star of pushing young Sweden, had committed suicide in 1932, without any undue repercussion manifesting itself in that placid land. But when the Slav expatriate, Stavisky, followed in Kreuger's footsteps, the French were to know all about it. In fact, their Republic came as near ending, as ever it did, until 1940.

Stavisky was the king of rotten money, and sprinkled cheques like confetti. Editor Dubarry, of *La Liberté*, was his principal go-between with the Palais Bourbon, and Ministers had to resign. But the excessive danger to the regime sprang from the scandal breaking just when the French Fascists, the *Croix de Feu* and associate leagues, were at their strongest.

The Daladier Government went, and Stavisky liquidated himself, but Staviskism poisoned French politics almost up to the phoney war.

To Hitler fell the Roehme Scandal. Goebbels was to tell how his Führer pondered most of a night at Godesberg before flying to the Wiessee and unleashing the "Night of the Long Knives."

DETECTIVE-INSPECTOR KENNEDY : He is No. 2 in Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad and was a prominent witness at the opening of the Lynskey Tribunal

IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATIONS : Superintendent Arthur J. Thorp, head of the Metropolitan and City Police Fraud Squad, who has followed up the daily hearings at Church House with widespread inquiries, his department working as much as sixteen hours on some days

A CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE CHURCH HOUSE HEARINGS : Mr. Belcher (right), Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, with his former Secretary, Mr. Gerald Pearson. Mr. Pearson gave evidence of an important nature in the third week of the Tribunal

HEAD OF SCOTLAND YARD'S C.I.D. : Assistant Commissioner R. M. Howe leaving Church House after the conclusion of a day's session

"CARONIA," WITH TUGS AT HER BOWS, HEADS DOWN THE CLYDE AFTER COMPLETION AT THE YARDS OF JOHN BROWN: This dramatic view was taken from a giant crane as Britain's biggest post-war luxury liner set out in a high wind to negotiate the tortuous bends of the Clyde. On board were 120 engineers and electricians, 50 joiners, 25 painters and a few plumbers, whose duty it was to remain on the liner until the completion of her trials

"CARONIA" GOES DOWN to the SEA in a STORM

Britain's Largest Post-war Liner Leaves Her Fitting-out Basin

A high wind which swept the whole of the West of Scotland did not interfere with the departure of the *Caronia* from her fitting-out basin at Clydebank, and to the accompaniment of cheers from the yard where she was built she set out on a journey which was accomplished without incident. The *Caronia* reached the Tail of the Bank as darkness was falling, and after casting off her tugs, went for a short cruise in the upper reaches of the Firth of Clyde. The second day was spent in anchor tests and compass adjustments, and after a visit to Gladstone Dock, Liverpool, it was arranged that the great vessel should start her acceptance trials on December 17. Her maiden voyage to New York will be followed by a cruise.

On left—DRESSED OVERALL, THE "CARONIA" MAKES HER JOURNEY DOWNSTREAM: The world's largest single-funnel liner seen during her passage of the River Clyde

A FORWARD FIGHTING PATROL OF THE INDIAN ARMY CROSSES A NULLAH : A section advancing across wooded country in the drive towards Poonch city, Kashmir, where the Indians sought to relieve the garrison which was protecting some 10,000 Hindu and Sikh refugees from possible massacre by the Muslims. This recent push by the Indian Army brought nearer the prospect of full-scale war between the Dominions of India and Pakistan, and at least two divisions of Pakistan troops have been engaged in supporting the Muslim tribesmen against units of the Indian Army. It is estimated that the Indian Army faces about 10,000 tribesmen at one time, but the latter do not stay more than a month at the front, being relieved by other tribesmen equally eager to take their share in the Holy War. In the attack on Poonch, the Indian Army used one division which advanced in three columns of brigade strength

KASHMIR FACES FULL-SCALE WAR

Aspects of the Long-drawn-out Conflict in the Mountains

DIRECTING THE UNDECLARED WAR IN KASHMIR—THE NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE INDIAN ARMY : Lieut.-General K. M. Cariappa (right), who has been appointed to succeed General Roy Bucher. He is seen on the Kashmir front with Major-General K. S. Thimayya, who commands the Indian troops in Kashmir, and Lieut.-General S. M. Shriganesh, overall commander of Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir. On these three officers may devolve a major conflict. At the moment five Indian divisions are engaged in Kashmir, and Pakistan asserts that the Indian advance has already impinged upon regions vital to the strategic defence of their country. Pakistan has already hinted that she may soon have to use armoured artillery and air support in the campaign

FOUR RED CROSS AMBULANCES FOR THE EAST PUNJAB : Lady Bucher, wife of General Roy Bucher (Commander-in-Chief in India until January), at a ceremony in New Delhi, at which four Red Cross Ambulances were handed over to the East Punjab Province. On Lady Bucher's right hand is Sir U. N. Sen, President of the Indian Red Cross, and on her left is Sardar Bahadur Balwant Singh Puri, Secretary-General of the Indian Red Cross and St. John's

THE START OF THE INDIAN ARMY'S DRIVE THROUGH THE PASSES OF KASHMIR : Indian Army troops employed ponies to carry their equipment as they advanced against the Muslim tribesmen in the recent push which cleared 1,500 square miles of Kashmir territory. Indian air support was used in this advance

INDIA'S PREMIER WITH THE ROYAL INDIA AIR FORCE : Pandit Nehru standing in the cockpit of one of the new Vampire jet fighters which have lately been acquired by the Dominion, and which will doubtless be playing their part in the Kashmir battles

GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S YOUNGER SON HAS BEEN IN BATTLE ON THE SUCHOW FRONT: Colonel Chiang Wei Kuo (standing), Chief of Staff of the Chinese Nationalist Armoured Corps, giving a tank commander final instructions before going into action against the Communist forces. Thirty-two of these 15-ton tanks are under the Colonel's command, and last week they were reported to be involved in heavy fighting. The Generalissimo's elder son, Chiang Ching-kuo, has of late been in charge of the drive against the black marketeers in Shanghai, but his campaign foundered after meeting with a small measure of initial success

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK TO THE RESCUE: The wife of the Generalissimo, who has flown to America in a last desperate bid to step-up American aid for the Chinese Nationalists, seen in the grounds of Secretary of State Marshall's home at Leesburg, Virginia, where she was the guest of the Marshalls at the start of her visit. Madame Chiang's reception in the United States was described by the Press as "luke-warm"

A CASUALTY CLEARING STATION ON THE SUCHOW FRONT: Chinese Nationalist troops passing wounded comrades in a village near Suchow. Nationalist moral has been low, and desertions have been wholesale, but recently a marked improvement was noted when troops were paid in silver coinage instead of in the now-worthless currency which the Generalissimo failed to bolster up

CHINA'S NATIONALISTS FACE A CRISIS

The Communist Drive Imperils Chiang's Regime

The fog of war shrouds the Chinese battle-fronts, but each time the rival claims are sifted it usually appears that the Communists have achieved another spectacular advance. All Manchuria and a great part of North China are now in their hands, and at the time of writing they are hammering along the line before Nanking. Last week, while Madame Chiang sought in the United States the increased aid that the Nationalists so sorely need, three groups of Generalissimo Chiang's troops were reported to be surrounded to the west of the Tientsin-Pukow railway. More Communist hordes were pouring south from the Great Wall, reaching a point north of Peiping, and it seemed that the opening battle had begun for Eastern Hopei. All along the line there was evidence of Communist success and Nationalist deterioration.

WOUNDED ARE BROUGHT FROM THE FIGHTING LINE AT SUCHOW: Stretcher-bearers taking the men down to a casualty clearing station. Since July the Nationalists have lost 1,800,000 men, a large proportion of them as prisoners and deserters. In the course of this campaign the Communists have obtained possession of two-fifths of China

AT THE HELM OF THE DISINTEGRATING STATE: Dr. Sun Fo, the son of China's revered revolutionary leader, Dr. Sun Yat Sen, was appointed as Prime Minister over an emergency War Cabinet at the end of November. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek has given this Liberal leader wide powers of command

A Survey of the Foreign News in Pictures

THE WAY OF THE WORLD

SCOTLAND'S GIFT TO MALTA—REBUILDING THE KING GEORGE V MERCHANT SEAMEN'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WITH FUNDS COLLECTED IN PENNIES AND SIXPENCES. *Left*—The rebuilt hospital; and (*right*) Admiral Sir Arthur Power, C.-in-C., Mediterranean Fleet, speaking at the reopening ceremony on St. Andrew's Day. A Scottish contingent flew to Malta for the reopening, which was conducted by Lady Mountbatten, who is seen just behind Admiral Sir Arthur Power

Scottish pennies and sixpences raised from all classes of the community in town and countryside contributed £125,000 to the rebuilding fund of Malta's King George V Hospital, which was destroyed by bombing in 1942. The reopening, fittingly enough, took place on St. Andrew's Day, and among those flown out to Malta to represent the Scottish branch of the British Red Cross at the reopening ceremony were Sir Walter Maxwell Scott, Lady Stirling and Admiral Sir Harold and Lady Walker. Countess Mountbatten, who has been in Malta since Lord Mountbatten took command of the 1st Cruiser Squadron, Mediterranean Fleet, has a long record of association with Red Cross activities.

A HURRICANE STRIKES A RAND MINING DISTRICT: An aerial view of some of the 700 homes destroyed at Roodepoort, twelve miles from Johannesburg, after the greater part of the town had been laid waste

THE SHATTERED HOMES OF ROODEPOORT: Another aerial view of the mining town after it had been hit by a hurricane and nearly every roof in the place had been torn from its moorings. This is not the first time Roodepoort has been hit, and the Union Government has rallied to the people's aid. Within a few hours of the disaster hot food and warm clothing were distributed to those in need, and a vast relief fund has been instituted. Roodepoort lies midway between Johannesburg and Krugersdorp. At the 1936 census its white population was given at over 10,000. Around Roodepoort are the rich mines of the Near West and Central Rand group, including the comparatively modern Rand Leases

A CONCERT IS HELD ON AN EMPTY BUILDING LOT IN THE TOWN OF BEERSHEBA: Leonard Bernstein, the American composer, at the piano with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, when a concert was given recently on an empty building lot and attended by hundreds of soldiers and settlers from throughout the Negev. Beersheba, according to a United Nations resolution, should be handed over to an Egyptian Governor. Israel forestalled these plans by a sudden military descent in force upon the Negev and by routing the Egyptian forces

MADAME PÉTAIN GOES TO PARIS TO EXPLAIN: The wife of the imprisoned French Marshal addressing a Press Conference in Paris, when she vigorously denied a newspaper report that her husband had referred to the English as "cochons." Pétain was said to have used the phrase when referring to the British stand over the question of Ruhr industrialisation. The Marshal remains, at the time of writing, a close prisoner on the Island of Yeu, Western France, but there have been repeated rumours of his coming release

THREE DETHRONED KINGS WERE IN THE CONGREGATION : M. Robert Gasche, son of a well-known Swiss industrialist and a resident of Alexandria, with his bride, Countess Maria Ludovica Calvi di Bergolo (granddaughter of the late King Victor Emmanuel III), at their wedding at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Alexandria. Ex-King Umberto of Italy, ex-King Simeon of Bulgaria, and ex-King Zog of Albania attended the service, as well as the widowed Queen Helena of Italy. Standing behind the bride and bridegroom in this picture is Prince Romanoff. The bride's mother was the former Princess Yolanda, eldest daughter of Victor Emmanuel, who married the Count of Bergolo in 1923

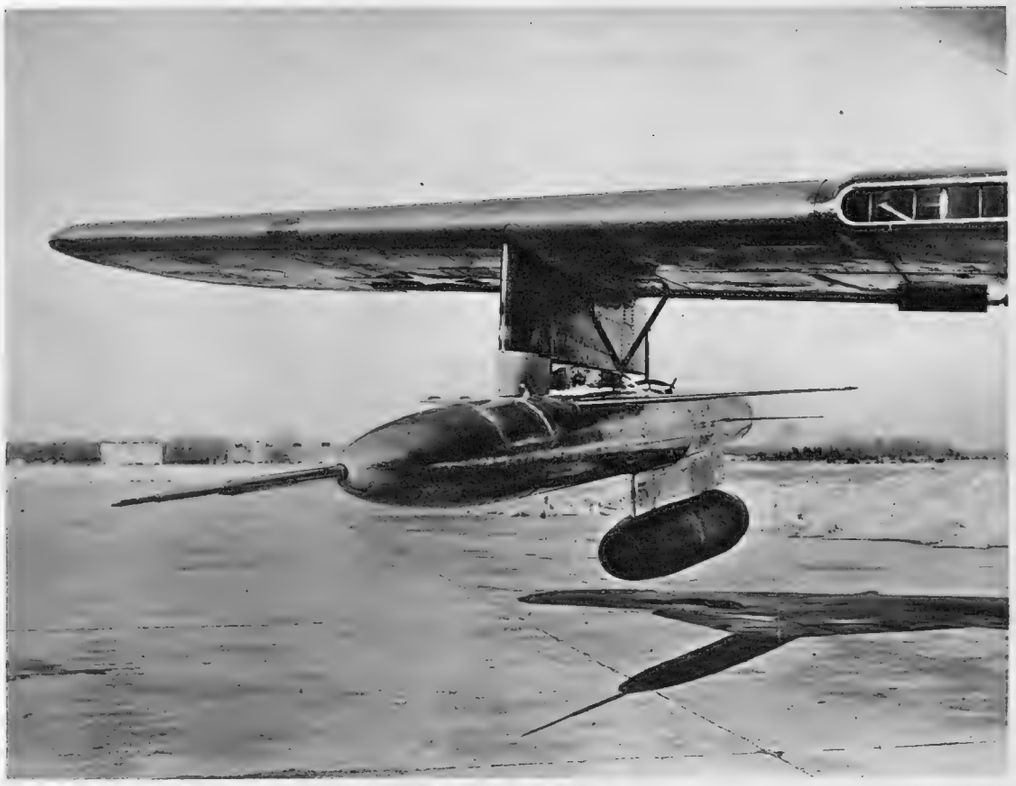
DETHRONED ROYALTY AT THE ALEXANDRIA WEDDING : Left to right—Ex-Queen Giovanna of Bulgaria (daughter of Victor Emmanuel III), ex-King Simeon of Bulgaria, Prince Leka (son of ex-King Zog of Albania) and ex-Queen Geraldine of Albania, outside the Church of the Sacred Heart in Alexandria

SANTA CLAUS PARADES THROUGH THE STREETS OF AMSTERDAM : Santa Claus Week in the city was opened by the arrival of St. Nicholas in the Dam Square, where he was greeted by the Burgomaster. Afterwards he made a tour of the city accompanied by his retinue. Tens of thousands of children lined the processional route, a few of the less sceptical among them believing the old story that Santa had arrived by boat from Spain and was prepared to give the fullest consideration to the requirements of all youngsters whose parents reported well of them. Santa Nikolaus, patron saint of children, celebrates his feast day on December 6, and the vigil is still observed in many parts of Holland. He is usually depicted wearing a bishop's mitre. (St. Nicholas is said to have been Bishop of Myra in the fourth century)

SANTA CLAUS ON HIS WHITE HORSE LED BY BLACK PETER : The revered patron saint of the children leaving the Dam Square, Amsterdam. The part of St. Nicholas was played by Eduard Verkade, the veteran Dutch actor

LAST RITES FOR A VICTIM OF AN AIR-LIFT CRASH : The Rev. R. L. W. Pratt, R.A.F. Chaplain from Lubeck, conducting the service as men of the Royal Air Force lowered into the grave at Ohlsdorf British Cemetery, near Hamburg, the coffin bearing the remains of Flight-Lieutenant J. E. Wilkins, last survivor from the R.A.F. Dakota aircraft which crashed near Schonberg in the Soviet Zone of Germany during November. The three other occupants of the aircraft died instantly. The Russian Military authorities showed great consideration, and after taking Wilkins to hospital, they made arrangements for his wife to be summoned. They also allowed an R.A.F. medical officer to visit him and called in a German surgeon to operate.

A CONSTITUTIONAL FOR THE CONSTITUTION-MAKER : General Peron, President of Argentina, setting off on a hunting party in the woods near Buenos Aires, with members of the Club Hippico. On his left hand rides War Minister Molina. General Peron plunged the nation into a general election on the Constitution issue, and last week the people went to the polls. The General claims the Statutes must be rewritten to eliminate "excessive liberalism"



America Tests New Fighting Equipment

THE BLACK WIDOW AND HER OFFSPRING, THE GORGON IV

The Pilotless Missile and Its Mother Plane Are Tried Out at Point Mugu

The sub-sonic ram-jet engine Gorgon IV, sometimes called the "Stovepipe," is considered the ideal equipment for driving guided missiles. It has no static thrust and cannot take off under its own power, hence the need for a fighter plane to provide the velocity before it is launched in level flight. In recent tests at Point Mugu, California, Gorgon IV ram-jet missiles were taken aloft by Black Widow fighters specially modified for the task, and were then released at a set height.

Other than a fuel pump the ram-jet has no moving parts, and it depends for its thrust on a difference in momentum between the entering air and the exhaust gases. The Gorgon IV is a high-winged monoplane 22 ft. in length with a wing-span of 10 ft. It is of all-metal construction, and its gross weight is 900 lbs. The 80-Octane fuel adds a further 700 lbs. to the weight. After the initial ignition of this fuel by the spark-plug, the burning and thrust are continuous until the fuel is exhausted.

A number of recent flights made at the United States Naval Air Missile Testing Centre at Point Mugu have provided most valuable engine-performance information during controlled free flight. The Gorgon is controlled in flight from a ground station, and it is completely equipped with instruments to telemeter to the ground station such data as speed, altitude, brake-drag, controllability, engine operation.

A GORGON IV RAM-JET ENGINE IS CARRIED BENEATH A BLACK WIDOW FIGHTER : Since ram-jets have no power when standing still, they have to be tested from a parent craft. Once in the air the pilotless missile starts up with a roar and shoots ahead of its mother plane under automatic control. The U.S. Navy is conducting extensive tests with the Gorgon IV at Point Mugu, California

THE BLACK WIDOW TAKES OFF WITH THE GORGON IV SLUNG BENEATH HER RIGHT WING : The Gorgon IV, an almost wingless missile, is launched from the mother plane when in level flight. Already several sustained flights of more than ten minutes' duration have been made. At the moment the ram-jet travels at sub-sonic speeds, but the engine has almost unlimited possibilities at driving missiles at speeds far in excess of sound. On the mother aircraft the weight of the Gorgon is counterbalanced by a tank suspended below the opposite wing

THE MARINE CORPS ADOPTS THE SQUIRREL-CAGE JEEP : This equipment, regarded as the answer to the transportation problem in soft, swampy ground, consists of a continuous track-laying mat which revolves round the jeep as it moves along. The jeep, with its squirrel cage, can travel at speeds up to 35 m.p.h. and under conditions in which the average vehicle would be certain to stall

ALSO STANDARD EQUIPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS : The jeep equipped as a deep-water fording vehicle. From mobile radio unit to engine, the jeep is completely waterproof, and it is capable of crossing streams and rivers up to 4 ft. in depth. Breathing apparatus for the engine juts above the windscreen. This type of waterproofing has been in use in the British Army since before D-Day, and on the occasion of the Normandy landings vast quantities of radar and vehicles went ashore with waterproofing of a most effective kind

AMERICAN MARINES DEMONSTRATE THE NEW ROADWAY MATS : The mats are carried compactly on special frames which can be attached to most vehicles used in an amphibious operation. As the vehicles come ashore the mats are paid out in advance, making a secure path up which following vehicles may travel without the risk of stalling. This method of laying is designed essentially with a view to cutting down difficulties on a crowded landing beach

THE RAM-JET, AN IDEAL EQUIPMENT FOR DRIVING GUIDED MISSILES—THE GORGON IV AFTER BEING LAUNCHED INTO LEVEL FLIGHT FROM A PARENT AIRCRAFT, THE BLACK WIDOW: The ram-jet engine has started up and the missile is travelling at a speed just below the sonic barrier. At the end of a flight a parachute opens, and the missile enters the sea undamaged, where it is picked up by waiting motor-boats. During the Gorgon's flight information is telemetered back to a ground receiving station by an electric brain, and ground observers are able to build up a complete picture of the ram-jet's performance

THE NORTHROP FLYING-WING BOMBERS ARE EQUIPPED WITH NEW POWER UNITS: Nine of the 100-ton giants drawn up on the airfield at Hawthorne, California, where their reciprocating engines are being changed for turbo-jets. Measuring 172 ft. in span, the chevron-shaped B 35 can fly 10,000 miles non-stop, at speeds far in excess of the best World War II bombers. An important link in the expanded United States Air Force defence programme, the Flying Wings achieve increased efficiencies in range, load-carrying ability and speed through elimination of all unnecessary drag-producing parts, such as the tail, fuselage and engine nacelles

SOMETHING NEW IN ORDNANCE-TESTING EQUIPMENT: This 24-in. test gun, the modified, sawn-off barrel of a gun originally mounted in the United States battleship "South Dakota," has been put in operation at the U.S. Naval Proving Grounds at Dahlgren, Virginia, to test the war-heads of guided missiles. It will shoot such missiles against armour-plate and concrete, and the effects of impacts will be measured and analysed. The "South Dakota" was a war casualty, receiving in October 1942 a direct hit from a 500-lb. Japanese bomb during the battle of Santa Cruz

20 GUINEAS to 18,000 GUINEAS at the DECEMBER SALES

Price Contrasts in the Newmarket Auctions

The Newmarket December Sales are in many ways the most interesting of the year, partly by reason of the great contrasts they offer, when all sorts and conditions of racehorses and potential racehorses are brought together and partly because they give a chance for flat-racing folk, already fretting for the Lincoln and "the off," to get together during the interregnum in the Sport of Kings. These December sales at Newmarket were well attended, and there was a large foreign contingent, with French, Italian and American buyers casting an appraising eye upon some of Britain's best brood mares. There was lively bidding for the seven-year-old brood mare Ferry Pool, by Hyperion out of Devachon, and much excitement when she was knocked down to the Sezincote Stud for 18,000 guineas. Ferry Pool is in foal to Nearco. At the other end of the scale a brown filly foal by Fun Fair was knocked down for a mere twenty guineas

THE BUYERS OF THE RACING WORLD FORGATHER: A scene in the sale-ring at the Newmarket December Sales, which attracted buyers of bloodstock from America, Italy and France

ONE FROM THE BARGAIN BASEMENT: The Marchioness of Cambridge (centre) and Lady Mary Cambridge (right) inspecting a foal from Ireland, which the Marchioness purchased for fifty guineas

AS DARKNESS FELL THE AUCTIONEERS WERE STILL IN FULL CRY: There were great contrasts in prices, with one lot going for a mere twenty guineas, only to be succeeded by bids mounting into the thousands. As was to be expected some of the older mares fetched the lowest prices

PERSONALITIES IN THE SALE PADDOCKS: Mrs. Cecil Boyd Rochfort, Mrs. E. Stockenstorn, a visitor from Sweden, and Captain Cecil Boyd Rochfort, the King's trainer, in conversation during the sales. Captain Boyd Rochfort bought for 7,200 guineas the four-year-old Fair Trial mare Trial Ground, who descends from Pretty Polly

THE HORSES ARE PARADED IN THE PADDOCK BEFORE BEING TAKEN INTO THE SALE-RING: Here buyers have a chance to appraise their potential purchases, which are walked round by the grooms. Among prominent buyers from abroad was M. de Brignac, racing manager for that astute French owner, M. Boussac

FARMLAND WHICH MAY BE FLOODED TO CREATE A GREAT NEW RESERVOIR FOR THE SOUTH ESSEX AND SOUTHEND WATERWORKS COMPANIES : The reservoir is necessary to supply the increased population of the district and to serve the new town of Basildon and the London County Council estate of Harold Hill. The scheme involves the damming of a valley, the flooding of 1,500 acres of farmland and the destruction of farm-houses, cottages and other buildings

TOWN and COUNTRY PLANNING

Historic Areas of Essex and London which May be Lost to Waterworks and Housing Schemes

THE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY FRONT OF FREMNELLS, THE SIXTEENTH-CENTURY MANOR HOUSE OF DOWNHAM, IN ESSEX. Fremnells was built by Sir Thomas Tyrrell at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Sir Thomas Raymond added the front, shown in the above picture, in 1676

PEADOWNS, A PICTURESQUE CORNER OF SOUTH HANNINGFIELD, WHICH IS THREATENED BY THE PROPOSED RESERVOIR SCHEME : This and other old buildings, together with farmland, will be submerged if the plan is carried through. The many families taking up residence near Chelmsford, in Essex, have necessitated considerable expansion in the local water-supply system and some form of reinforcement is essential. Inevitably, drastic plans involving the flooding of farmlands and the destruction of buildings have brought opposition from farmers and tenants. The South Essex and Southend Waterworks Companies' scheme involves the creation of a huge reservoir in the West and South Hanningfield and Downham district, supplied by water from the Rivers Chelmer and Blackwater. The manor house of Fremnells would have to be destroyed. It has historic associations with General Sesborough, one of Cromwell's generals who married Cromwell's daughter, and who lived there after the death of Sir Thomas Raymond

SITE FOR A LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL HOUSING SCHEME : A part of Campden Hill, Kensington, on 9½ acres of which it is proposed to erect L.C.C. flats in direct contradiction to the County of London Plan of 1943. This section of the area concerned shows Cam House in the centre, with Moray Lodge beyond and Holland Park on the left. Thorpe Lodge is on the right of the picture, but is obscured. The Kensington Borough Council is in opposition to the scheme

Holland House, Thorpe Lodge, Moray Lodge, Cam House and Plane Tree House, with their fine grounds, adjoin to form a unique garden area between Kensington High Street and Holland Park which, in the County of London Plan, was referred to as one which "preserves its mellow beauty" and which "may be damaged by the injudicial zeal of the planner." Now the area is in danger, the London County Council having decided that 9½ acres of the gardens are to be used for housing, and that the Ministry of Works is to erect a building in the Holland House grounds and near Kensington High Street to house learned societies. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, in a letter to *The Times*, has written: "Disquieting signs of the abandonment of the plan have been multiplying. Must we now conclude that the County of London Plan has been finally jettisoned?"

C

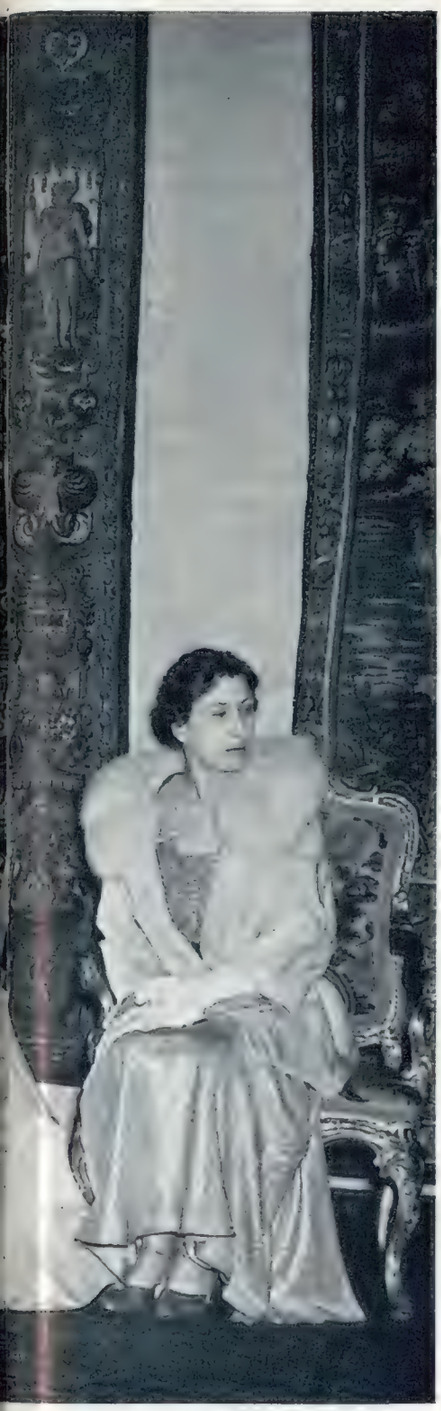
THE ROYAL FAMILY PARTY IN THE TAPESTRY ROOM OF THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM : The Queen with the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Margareta of Denmark (wife of Prince Axel), Princess Margaret and the Princess Royal. They were attending the reception by the Anglo-Danish Society, and this picture was taken in the Tapestry Room, where are displayed some of the Royal treasures from Kronborg Castle. Part of the entertainment was a concert by the Koppel String Quartet

DURING THE CONCERT GIVEN BY THE KOPPEL STRING QUARTET : The Royal family party in the Tapestry Room at the Victoria and Albert Museum, where they were guests of the Anglo-Danish Society. The Queen wore a black velvet gown with a tiara. Princess Margaret's dress was of white faille, embroidered with pearls, and she had a five-strand necklace

THE QUEEN AT THE ANGLO-DANISH RECEPTION

The Royal Visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum

During the concert and reception given by the Anglo-Danish Society her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal family heard Sir Laurence Olivier read Hans Andersen's story *It 's Perfectly True* and extracts from the original twelfth-century story of Hamlet. Before the performance her Majesty received the chairman and members of the Society's Council in the picture gallery of the Kings and Queens of Denmark, the Tapestry Room which forms part of the exhibition of Danish Art Treasures. The Exhibition, it may be remembered, was opened in the early autumn by King Frederik of Denmark. Danish hospitality at the reception won high praise, the delicacies displayed in the Blue Hall of the museum having been brought specially from Denmark.



THE QUEEN WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY: Her Majesty accompanied by Sir Michael Kroyer-Kielburg, who welcomed her on behalf of the Society. Sir Michael, who has vast interests in the sugar industry, was born in Denmark and was educated at Skandenborg and Brockske. He was created K.B.E. in 1947

PRINCESS MARGARET WITH THE PRINCESS ROYAL, arriving for the Anglo-Danish Society's reception, one of the big social events of last week. H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh can be seen just behind the Princess Royal

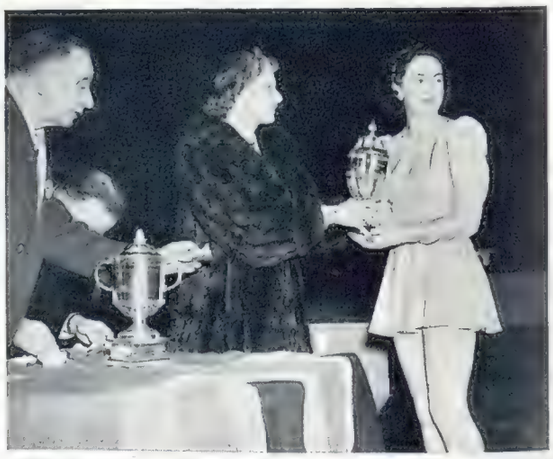
GREETED BY MEMBERS OF THE DANISH DIPLOMATIC CORPS: The Queen with Mr. Hugh Fitz Hennugson (Counsellor of the Danish Embassy), Countess Reventlow (wife of the Danish Ambassador), and Count Raben (Danish Embassy) on arrival at the reception. Many prominent members of the Danish colony in London were present. Food for the reception was brought from Denmark by the mail steamer

ENGLAND AND DENMARK COMPETE ON THE DANCE FLOOR: The International Ballroom Contest in progress at the Empress Hall, Earl's Court. Dancing in the centre background are Paul Jespersen and Inger Christiansen, of Denmark, and in the middle of the hall towards the right are the English pair Joe Barnes and Rosa Haywood. Other members of the English team are seen seated and standing on the right, and members of the Danish team are on the left. England won the international match with 264½ points against 260½ points by Denmark, but the Danes won the European Formation Trophy. No fewer than three of the dancers fainted in the course of the extremely arduous programme

YOUTH COMPETES ON THE ICE RINK AND ON THE DANCE FLOOR

LADIES OF THE DANISH TEAM: The eight dancers in their Empire-style gowns lined up at the Empress Hall

COMPETING FOR THE FIGURE-SKATING CHAMPIONSHIP OF GREAT BRITAIN: The eight young ladies who met last week at the Empire Pool, Wembley, when Miss J. E. Altwegg, of Liverpool, retained her title. Left to right: Miss V. Osborn, who was placed fifth with 1,163·9 points; Miss J. Lister (Liverpool); Miss P. Devries (London); Miss M. Hoskins (Brighton); Miss B. F. Bailey (London), who was placed fourth, in front of Miss Osborn, although scoring less points; Miss B. Wyatt (Brighton), who was second with 1,210·6 points; Miss J. E. Altwegg, the winner of the contest, with 1,275·3 points; and Miss B. Shirley Adams, of London, who was third with 1,201·1 points



MISS ALTWEGG RETAINS HER CHAMPIONSHIP: The Liverpool skater receiving from Mrs. Attlee the trophy as Amateur Figure-skating Champion of Great Britain. Although the standard was good this year, critics noted that Miss Altwegg and her colleagues did not reproduce the wonderful form they had shown in practice

SIR ALFRED MUNNINGS, PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY, STANDING BESIDE THE PORTRAIT OF SIR FRANCIS CHANTREY, R.A., PAINTED BY SIR JOHN JACKSON, R.A. : Sir Francis Chantrey, a sculptor of rare technical skill who enjoyed much popularity in his own day, bequeathed the bulk of his fortune of £150,000 to the trustees of the Royal Academy for the furtherance of the fine arts in England, and in the seventy-two years of the Bequest's existence a vast collection has been established. Now for the first time it is to be shown in its entirety, and over 430 Bequest pictures will fill nearly every available gallery in the forthcoming winter show at Burlington House. In face, Chantrey resembled Shakespeare (as he is thought to have appeared). In early life he lost his hair through fever contracted in Ireland, and never recovered it. Chantrey's biographer tells us that he had great natural intelligence and sagacity. His manners were somewhat rough and his language strong, but his notions with respect to character and conduct were refined

FOUR CHANTREY PICTURES : Mr. Hutchison, a Burlington House official, and the foreman hanger engaged in cataloguing part of the Chantrey collection which is to form the Winter Exhibition at the R.A., beginning on January 8 and continuing until March 5. There will be over 430 exhibits

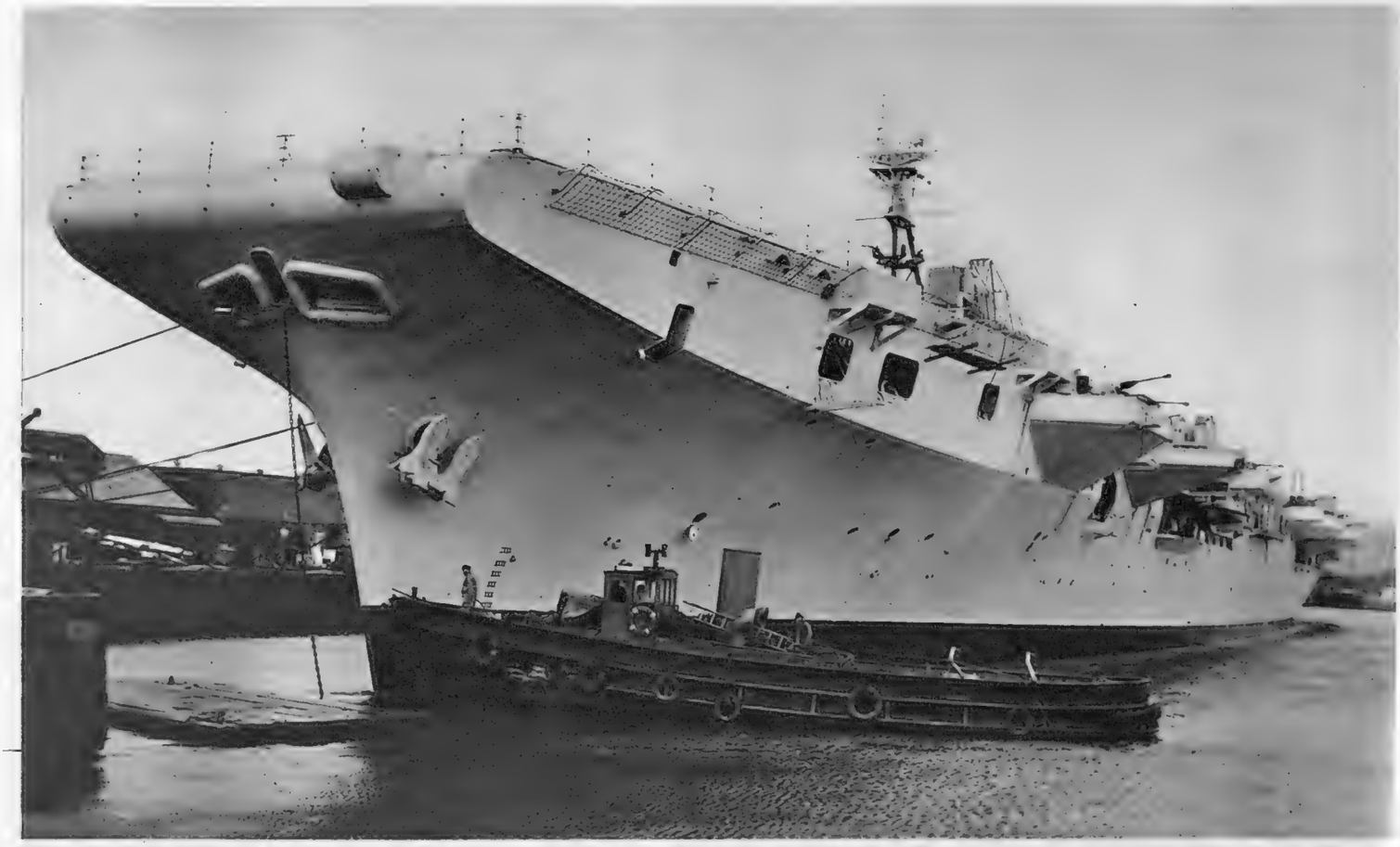
The Chantrey Bequest pictures for the most part have their home in the Tate Gallery, Millbank, but lack of space has prevented the hanging of all but a portion of the increasing collection. The forthcoming exhibition at Burlington House will therefore be of very special interest, and the public will be able to judge for themselves just how far past criticisms have been justified, for the administrators of the Bequest have often been charged with lack of skill in the selection of purchases. Chantrey, however, was a true friend of British Art, and his bequest has surely played a vast part in the fostering of genius by providing that initial encouragement that so often precedes public recognition of an artist or sculptor. The 435 exhibits at Burlington House require very special skill in arrangement, for there is no central motif to this winter show beyond the fact that the pictures and sculptures were all bought with money bequeathed by one man.

ALL THE CHANTREY BEQUEST PICTURES IN ONE EXHIBITION

Preparing for the Winter Show at the Royal Academy

SORTING THE CHANTREY PICTURES : A scene in Burlington House as preparations for the winter go ahead. They have been brought from galleries in many parts of Britain, as well as from their principal home, the Tate

SCULPTURE IN THE MASS—SOME OF THE MANY EXAMPLES OF SCULPTURAL ART WAITING TO BE ASSEMBLED IN THE CHANTREY EXHIBITION AT BURLINGTON HOUSE : Sir Francis Chantrey's bequest included sculpture and painting only among the fine arts. The Bequest became operative in 1877, after the death of Lady Chantrey, who had had a life interest in her husband's estate. Sir Francis was himself a brilliant sculptor, having an unusual gift for catching a likeness



AUSTRALIA'S FIRST AIRCRAFT-CARRIER—H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY," WHICH HAS BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY: Formerly H.M.S. "Terrible," the carrier has been refitted at Devonport and the handing-over ceremony was arranged to take place last Thursday. Construction of the "Terrible" began in 1943 as a light Fleet carrier of the Majestic class. Another ship of the same class, "Magnificent," has been loaned to the Royal Canadian Navy

THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN AIRCRAFT-CARRIER

H.M.S. "Terrible" is Handed Over and Becomes H.M.A.S. "Sydney"

Ever since the end of the war the Royal Australian Navy has been in need of an aircraft-carrier, now reckoned as both the eyes and the spearhead of a modern fleet. Last Thursday the carrier *Terrible* was handed over to Australia, and she received the celebrated name of *Sydney*. *Terrible* is a sister-ship of *Hercules*, *Leviathan* and *Powerful*, on all of which construction started in 1943. The new carrier has a displacement of about 14,000 tons. She is designed for a total of about forty aircraft and for a complement of 1,400.

Australian dockyards have had considerable experience in the handling of carriers. During the war, when the British Pacific Fleet was based on Australia, all types of aircraft-carriers were refitted in the Commonwealth dockyards. At Garden Island, in Sydney, the new Captain Cook dry-dock, which was opened by the Duke of Gloucester, will be of valuable service to the *Sydney* whenever the time comes for a refitment. A second carrier, which is to be named H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*, will be handed over early in 1950. The *Sydney* is to be taken to the Commonwealth by an Australian crew who are at present living in H.M.S. *Glory*.

On right—**THE "NERVE CENTRE" OF THE AIRCRAFT-CARRIER: The "island" of H.M.A.S. "Sydney," from which all operations are directed. Part of the network of radar equipment is clearly seen**

THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN MOTOR-CAR: The 21·6-h.p., 6-cylinder Holden, now in production at the General Motors-Holdens factory. The car has been named after the late Sir Edward Holden, chairman of directors of General Motors-Holdens Ltd. for sixteen years until his death in 1947. The Commonwealth Prime Minister, Mr. Chifley, was present at the first public exhibition of the car in Melbourne at the end of last month. The car will sell for £A675 and a production rate of 20,000 a year is expected by the end of 1949. The makers are concentrating on one model, the four-door, five-passenger saloon. The overhead-valve engine has three-point rubber suspension

THE STREAMLINED HOLDEN PUTS AUSTRALIA IN THE FOREFRONT OF CAR DESIGN: This well-designed saloon car is the single model now being produced by General Motors-Holdens Ltd. and which will seriously compete with British exports when the proposed production rate of 20,000 a year is reached

AUSTRALIA BUILDS A CAR

And New Types from Italy and France

A MIDGET CAR OF UNUSUAL DESIGN WHICH HAS BROKEN A NUMBER OF WORLD SPEED RECORDS: Pietro Taruffi with his 500-cc. TARF, the "double-barrelled" racer in which one section houses the engine, the other the driver. The streamlined twin fuselage of the TARF is only 3 ft. high and the car is driven by a twin-cylinder Guzzi engine. On the Brescia-Bergamo road, at the end of last month, this unique car broke the following records for the 500-cc. class: 1 kilometre (flying start) at 207·373 k.p.h. (previous record: 189·973 k.p.h., held by Major Gardner); 1 mile (flying start) at 203·939 k.p.h. (previously 189·086 k.p.h.); 5 kilometres (flying start) at 203·459 k.p.h. (previously 183·653); 5 miles (flying start) at 199·504 k.p.h. (previously 177·881 k.p.h.); and the 1 mile (standing start) at 128·676 k.p.h. (previously held by Lurani at 123·790 k.p.h.)

THE STERN OF PIETRO TARUFFI'S TARF: The unorthodox midget racer is loaded on to a lorry after breaking five world speed records in the 500-cc. class. The car has no normal steering-wheel and is controlled by levers

A CAR WHICH WEIGHS ONLY 6 CWT.: This new midget car of French design may be produced in England by the Cricklewood firm of L. T. Delaney and Sons. If mass-produced, it would sell for less than £200, including tax. The prototype was built by the Societé des Usines Chausson and Messrs. Delaney are negotiating for the production of it in this country. It has front-wheel drive; is powered by an engine of only 3 h.p. and can attain speeds of between 45 and 50 m.p.h. with a petrol consumption of 70 miles to the gallon. At £200 it would be the cheapest car on the British market

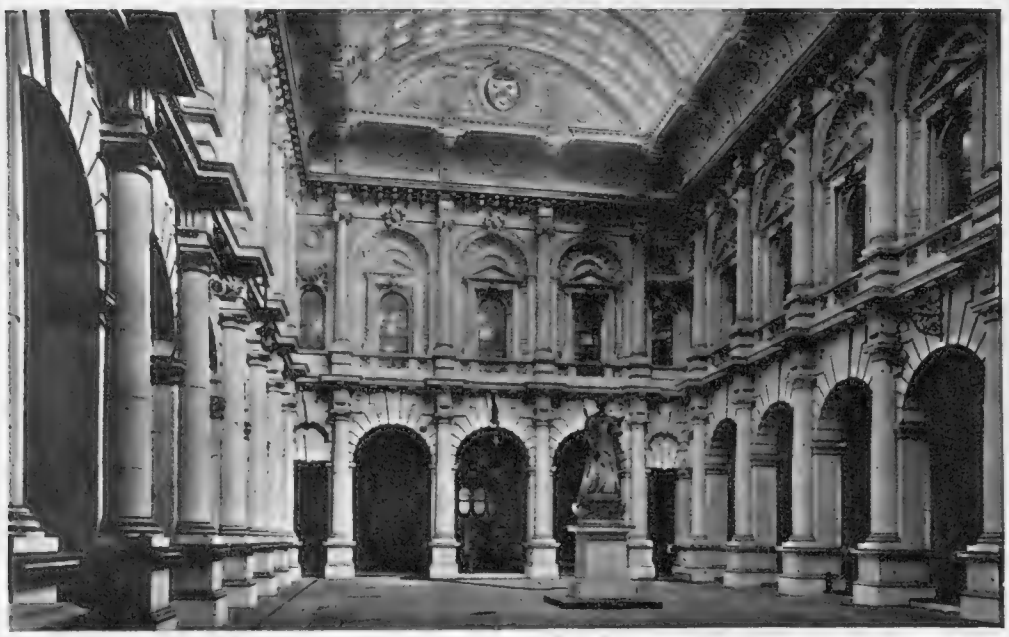
A SURVEY of the HOME NEWS in PICTURES

ONCE A HEN-COOP, NOW A CHURCH: Father Vianni Hughes leaving the small church at Norley, Cheshire, in company with Mr. B. N. Cox, who converted it from a hen-coop

SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT! When Mr. B. Neville Cox took over a farm-holding at Norley, Cheshire, he found a disused hen-coop in the grounds. With the help of his wife he carried out alterations which transformed the place into a church large enough for a congregation of forty people. Mr. Cox added a porch to the door and decorated the interior. He performs the duties of sacristan and, as seen in this picture at a Sunday morning service, plays the organ

PRIVATE VIEW DAY AT THE TATE: Mr. John Rothenstein (left), Director of the Tate Gallery, with M. Massigli, the French Ambassador in London, at the Bi-Centenary Exhibition of the Works of J. L. David, which is being shown by the Arts Council. The exhibition has been arranged with the help of the French Government, and consists almost entirely of portraits, the historical subjects being mostly too big to bring to this country

JACQUES LOUIS DAVID, A MASTER OF THE CLASSIC STYLE: A glimpse of the throng in one of the galleries at the opening of the Bi-Centenary Exhibition of David's work. In the background is David's "Bonaparte Crossing the St. Bernard," one of the few large canvases in the exhibition. David, who was a member of the French Revolutionary Tribunal and of the Academy, preserved the classical serenity of French art amid the chaos of the Terror. During the Revolution he acted as Master of Ceremonies at Republican festivities. He voted for the death of Louis XVI and was an ardent member of the party of Robespierre. With the rise of Napoleon, David became painter to the Court and with the return of the Bourbons he went into exile



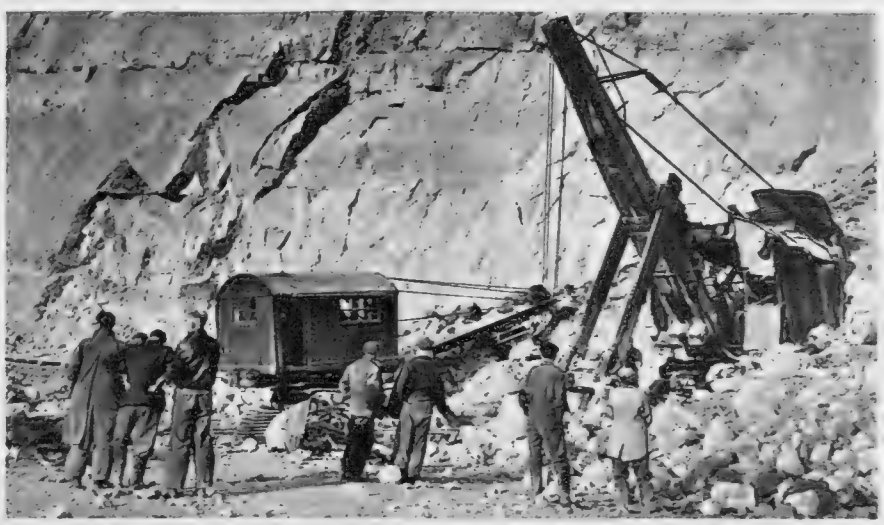
THE REOPENING OF THE ROYAL EXCHANGE: The building on Cornhill was closed during the flying-bomb attacks because of the danger created by its glass roof. Now it is open again as a rendezvous for City workers. This Exchange, the third to be erected on the site, dates from 1842-44. The first Exchange was built in the sixteenth century by Sir Thomas Gresham, one of the great merchants of his day. It was destroyed by fire, as also was its successor

THE REOPENING OF THE OLD VIC: The theatre, closed since 1940, and severely damaged by bombing, is to reopen again as the home of drama in South London, but on a reduced scale. Members of the "Young Vic," the Old Vic Company's juniors, will present Shakespeare's "As You Like It" next week, and the theatre will be used as a theatre club until further repairs make it suitable once again for public use

FRINGE AND CORD FOR PRINCESS ELIZABETH'S LONDON HOME: Mr. Thomas Fenning, a craftsman of Little Britain, E.C., spinning an ornamental barrier rope which will be used in the furnishing of Clarence House

PREPARING THE TRIMMINGS FOR CLARENCE HOUSE: A craftsman working on a loom, over 100 years old, making trimmings for various furnishings. On the top floor at No. 12, Little Britain, in the City of London, a house over 100 years old, craftsmen employed by Mr. B. A. Clarke are now busy making fringes, cords and loops for Princess Elizabeth's new home. Brought to England by the Huguenots, fringe, cord and loop-making is one of the oldest crafts, but it is now dying out, as young people will not take it up. It takes nearly ten years before a workman becomes efficient. The craftsmen at No. 12 are making the trimmings on looms 80 and 100 years old. Trimmings for St. Paul's Cathedral, the battleship *Vanguard*, and for most of London's theatres and night-clubs have been made on these looms. Queen Victoria was a frequent customer in the later years of her reign. Many of the fine trimmings made at the Little Britain workshops are of Mr. Clarke's own design

AFTER THE FOG CAME THE GALES—A MINE WASHED ASHORE AT FOLKESTONE: During the gales which swept the Channel last week three mines were washed ashore in Kent and Sussex. At Folkestone a mine floated into the harbour and came to rest on the East Cliffs sands. In this picture a policeman stands guard over the mine while waiting the arrival of a Disposal Squad



THE SUSSEX QUARRY DISASTER: Three men lost their lives and another was injured when 20,000 tons of chalk collapsed on to the mechanical grab with which they were working at the Beeding Cement Works, Sussex. They were lifting chalk at the foot of a 100-ft. cliff when, with almost no warning, the chalk broke away from the cliff-top and buried the three men and their machine. Mr. G. H. Arnold, of Shoreham, Sussex, was rescued, and immediately taken to hospital

THE AUTHOR OF "NEVER A DULL MOMENT" WEDS AGAIN: Major Reginald Evelyn Peter Southouse-Cheyney (Peter Cheyney) with his bride, Mrs. Loretta Theresa Singer, as they left Caxton Hall after their marriage last week. Major Cheyney is fifty-two and his bride is forty-one

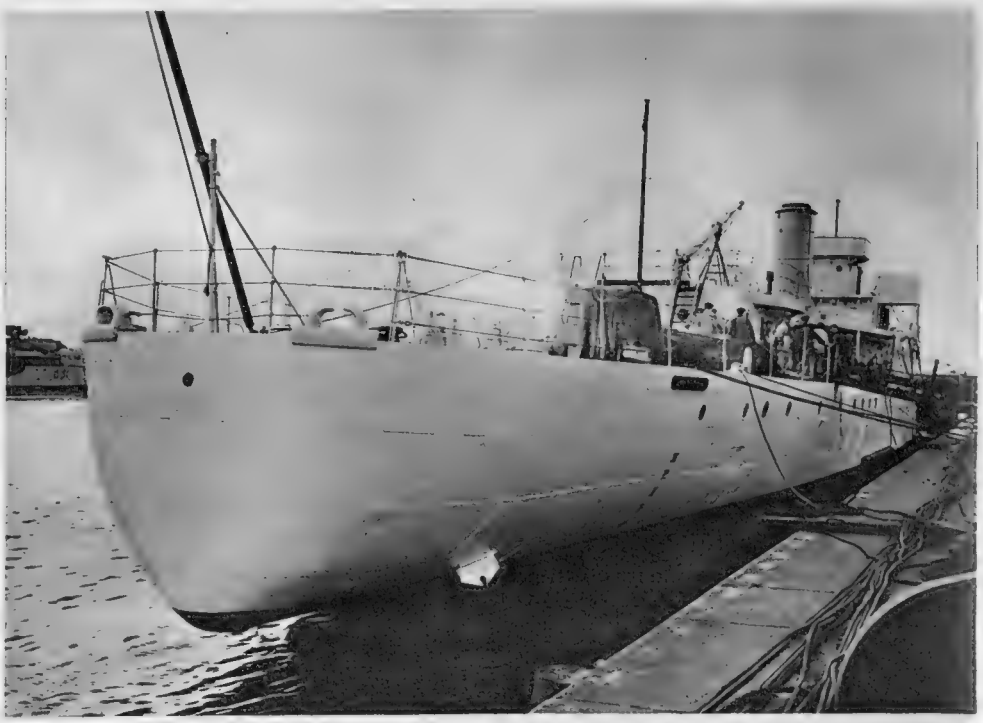
THE GOODS PILE UP AT NO. 1 PLATFORM, EUSTON: A scene on the station after 400 vanmen and porters had decided on strike measures. The strikers expressed their determination to stay on strike until the management agreed to hold an inquiry into the "grievances" of Mr. Rice, a vanman and union official, who has resigned from the railway. They claimed that his resignation was forced upon him by the management's insistence that he should give less time to his union duties and more to his work. The management offered to reinstate Mr. Rice

THE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE HONOURABLE COMPANY OF MASTER MARINERS: The boat-deck of the "Wellington," the sloop which, after refitting at Chatham, has taken up her berth at Temple Stairs, Victoria Embankment, there to serve as the floating hall of a City Company. She arrived on December 9

THE STAIRWAY LEADING DOWN TO THE COURTROOM OF THE LIVERY COMPANY: A scene within the 990-ton sloop H.M.S. "Wellington," now moored in the very heart of London

FLOATING HOME FOR A CITY LIVERY COMPANY

The Sloop "Wellington," New Headquarters of the Master Mariners



A RENDEZVOUS FOR MASTER MARINERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD: The sloop "Wellington," headquarters of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners. She was commissioned at Devonport in 1935 for service in the New Zealand Station, and she served throughout the war as an escort vessel, rendering supremely useful service. Her conversion has been costly, and a special appeal for a £250,000 endowment fund is now being made

In the past it was easy enough for Londoners to walk through Leadenhall Street in the Port of London without knowing that they had passed the front door of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners.

It was there two years ago that members of the Court of this comparatively new City Livery Company—it was founded in 1926 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1930—conceived the brilliant idea of transferring their headquarters, with all its treasures, to a ship. They decided, in fact, to convert the ex-Admiralty sloop, H.M.S. *Wellington*, into what is probably the only floating Livery Hall in the world. The results of their endeavours are shown in the illustrations on this page made just before the *Wellington* came up the tideway to take up her permanent place beside the Thames Embankment. The new hall will not only serve as a headquarters ship for the Company, but as a meeting-place for the Master Mariners of all nations.

THE DAIS IN THE COURTROOM: The chairs are those of Deputy Master, Master, and Senior Warden. The painting, by Sir John Lavery, depicts the Court of Aldermen granting Livery to the Master Mariners in 1932

LOOKING TOWARDS THE DAIS IN THE COURTROOM OF THE LIVERY COMPANY CONSTRUCTED OUT OF THE ENGINE- AND BOILER-ROOM OF H.M.S. "WELLINGTON": The room occupies almost the entire width of the ship, and it is handsomely panelled. Indirect lighting effects are employed. The panel in the centre of the dais bears the ship's motto—"Suprema ut Olim" ("Supreme as Ever"). The floating headquarters is equipped also with a museum and library

BEAULIEU HAS A CHRISTMAS LEGEND

A Famous Abbey and its Ghost Story

Beaulieu Abbey, the Cistercian foundation of King John, possessed in medieval and Tudor times the privileges of a sanctuary, and it was there that Margaret of Anjou and her son, Prince Edward, found shelter shortly before the Battle of Tewkesbury, and that Perkin Warbeck fled to in 1497. The ruins to-day, including the foundations of the church, the cloister and the lay brothers' refectory and dormitory, have a very special interest, for at Christmastide legend has it that they are haunted. The haunting, it is said locally, dates from the fateful year 1538, when Abbot Thomas Stevens surrendered his sacred charge.

Beaulieu Abbey, however, is not all ruins. The Abbot's House, or Great House, has long been the residence of the Montagus, and the monks' refectory, in the Early English style, is now the parish church. The pulpit in the church was formerly the tribune used by the reader during meals at the Abbey.

WHERE THEY SAY THAT GHOSTS WALK ON CHRISTMAS EVE: Reminiscent of old Spain or Provençal France is this flag-stoned path on the west side of the Cloisters at Beaulieu Abbey, the ancient Cistercian foundation on the edge of the New Forest. Some of the older inhabitants of the district firmly believe in the Christmas legend of Beaulieu, vowing that throughout Christmas Eve groups of white-habited Cistercians may be seen passing from chapel to chapel

ONCE THE LAY BROTHERS' DORMITORY AND LIVING QUARTERS: This part of the half-ruined Abbey has survived the years well. The iron railings on the left mark the entrance to the monks' dormitories

ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE CELEBRATED BEAULIEU CLOISTERS: These stand on the north side of the Abbey and are 138 ft. long. The wall is over 20 ft. high, and beyond it lay the monks' garden

THE MONKS' REFECTORY, WHICH NOW FORMS THE PARISH CHURCH AT BEAULIEU: The entrance, viewed through the arches of the Chapter House. The Abbey was founded by King John in 1204, and has given sanctuary to eight English monarchs

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AT LONDON'S DOCKS

Where Bumper Shipments Crowd the Wharves

By CHARLES GRAVES

PUNCHEONS of rum, butts of sherry, pipes of port, hogsheads of cognac, casks of Bordeaux wine, cases of champagne—what a series of lovely words which become actuality when you visit the London Docks and see them making delightful patterns on the quays.

I had never consciously seen a pipe of port before. For those who do not know, it is a somewhat elongated cask, not as stubby as a butt of sherry, but more oval. In other corners there were barrels, the heads of which were painted green. These came from South Africa—sherry or vermouth. Other barrels with yellow heads came from Australia. Stooping over them with curious instruments were a number of Customs' officers. Some were gaugers, carrying calipers and dipping-rods. Others were samplers, flourishing long tin pipettes called valinches. Yet others called floggers carried long-handled, thin-headed mallets, with which they hit the casks two or three times on either side of the bung-hole so smartly and precisely that the shive (the temporary wooden stopper) jumped out like a jack-in-the-box.

Every now and then a man would take away a couple of dozen sample bottles containing wine which had been abstracted from the hogsheads. These were subsequently removed to the laboratories where they were tested for strength, not for quality. On each pipe, butt or hogshead were a number of chalk marks; for, naturally enough, as soon as casks of wine are landed they come under the scrutinising eye of H.M. Customs, and the employees of the Port of London Authority place them in position on the quay so that the process of gauging can be carried out. Gaugers write a series of figures in chalk upon the head of each cask. Next comes the cooper, with an unusual instrument known as a scribing iron, with the sharp metal point of which he makes these essential particulars more permanent. As a result, the cask head will bear a description as follows:—

S. 48/60357 Simon 58 56 52

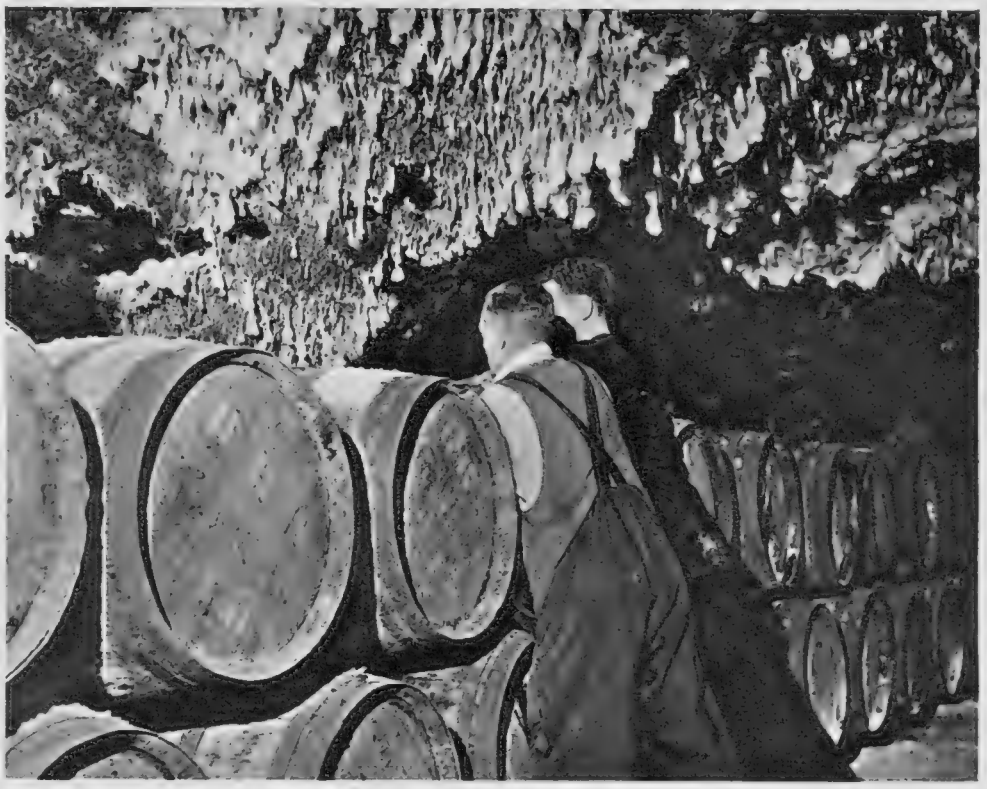
These are six definite items of information. The initial capital letter indicates the ship from which the cask has been landed; next come the year and rotation number, followed by the name of the merchant "entering" the cask. The figures of the fourth and fifth items show the full contents of the cask and the actual number of gallons it contains, the sixth item being the number of the cask in the "entry." A clerk now copies the details into his book and a duplicate is sent to the owner of the cask, which is finally delivered from the quay to a lorry or goes down into the bonded vault, from which it will emerge when the wine merchant takes it out of bond.

Since the war there has been a vast increase in the charges of the Port of London Authority for handling and keeping wines and spirits on their premises. The rent has increased by 22½ per cent. since 1939, while the other charges have increased by 71 per cent. These charges include "marking packages with letters, characters or figures." Before the war, a mark with a scribing iron cost a penny for one, two or three letters; twopence when the marking was done in ink; and fourpence when done in paint; the minimum charges being fourpence, sixpence and eightpence, according to the form of marking.

To the expert, a casual glance over hundreds of barrels will tell what they contain and where they come from. For example, pipes of port and Lisbon wine have twelve hoops, quarter casks of sherry have eight, hogsheads of claret have six.

Close at hand are the vaults. Altogether there are twenty-five acres of them (pre-war there were forty, but many were blitzed). Lying down there in the dim, religious light are 40,000 casks of wines and spirits, and 250,000 cases of wine. Among the casks are 25,000 barrels of Algerian wine, misguidedly bought in bulk by the Ministry of Food and now lying there unwanted. True, they are maturing as far as they can. But unless the Government decide to sell them at cut rates, it seems improbable that anybody in this country will have any use for them. In charge of everything is Mr. Popkin, the Vault Master, who has fourteen coopers, ten clerks and twenty dock labourers under him. The floors are heavy in sawdust, which makes it all the more eerie. Not a sound is heard except perhaps in the distance a tapping noise which grows louder as you approach. This is caused by a bond-cooper who, armed with a lamp, hits each cask in two or three places to see whether it is leaking. It is the sound which tells him so exactly the amount of evaporation that he can chalk on the head the exact number of gallons missing. The more hollow the sound, the emptier the cask. These bond-coopers need also to tell from the sound of their hammer whether a cask is ullaged or has sprung a leak through a faulty stave. To judge, however, from my conversation with one of these experts it is rather like *Punch's* ancient story of the wheel-tapper who had been tapping railway wheels all his life without ever knowing why he did it, or, rather, without being able to tell whether a wheel had developed a fault or not; for this particular cooper had never encountered a genuinely faulty cask.

Altogether there are £28,000,000-worth of duty payable on the stocks, quite apart from the value of the wines and spirits themselves, so it is not surprising if the Customs are rather fussy in ensuring that the bond is a good one.



IN THE VAULTS OF THE PORT OF LONDON: A cask being put into position. The ceiling is a mass of fungus created by the wine fumes over a long period of years. Mr. Graves comments in his article on the possible medicinal virtues of the fungus

Away in the corner of one of the vaults, however, was the coopers' shop, where they repair barrels and casks which have arrived in a faulty condition. Exactly the same instruments are used to-day as in the time of Nelson, when, in the same year as the Battle of Trafalgar, these vaults were built. They include a heading knife for bevelling the top of the barrel, a bellying knife for cleaning the staves, a backing knife, the opposite of a bellying knife, a bickiron for riveting the hoops, a croze for putting a groove into a cask to receive the head, and a dowelling-brace to make the dowel-holes in the head.

Patrick Maloney, one of the coopers jointing a stave when I was there, did his seven years as an apprentice like all other coopers, before reaching full employment. His father and his grandfather were coopers before him. To-day it is a dying trade. Though they stand much higher in the social scale as real craftsmen, the coopers only earn £7 a week at the Port of London Authority, which does not compare favourably with the £15 to £20 a week earned by certain dock labourers who need no apprenticeship. Indeed, not one of the five superintendents, each of whom has several thousand dock labourers and a clerical staff several hundreds strong under him, earns much more than some of the labourers whom he employs. One would have thought that at least some of the annual profits of the Port of London Authority which, as a public utility company cannot show any profits, would be diverted to increasing salaries and bridging in some way the absurd gulf in wages between trained executives and unskilled labour.

The dim gas-light or electric-light in the vaults is just strong enough to show low alleyways branching off at either hand. On both sides of them are double-height ramparts of casks each stowed with the shive uppermost. There are nearly thirty miles of scantling in the gangways of the vaults at London Dock alone. Throughout the year a temperature of 60 deg. F. is maintained. All over the vaults a dark fungus growth, fostered by the esters (evaporations from the imprisoned wine), hangs thick upon the ceiling. In some places it is pure white and looks exactly like cotton wool. No doubt doctors have analysed it to see whether it has any penicillin-like virtues. . . .

If a wine shipper wants to blend the different vintages contained in a number of his casks, he gives instructions that they should be emptied into one of the gigantic vats of which there are a number in the Crescent wine vaults; the experts of the Port of London Authority carrying out the operation. The vatted wine is then drawn off into casks for re-bonding or delivery. The process of bottling wine is carried out in another spot, the first step being that of "fining" the wine so that it is in a bright state when bottled. To do this, the casks are tilted slightly on a raised scantling and left for a period of time before the wine is drawn off. The concluding processes of the operation are corking, capsuling, labelling, wrapping in tissue paper, enclosing in straw envelopes until the final formality when the Customs affix their seal. For all these services the Port of London Authority is, naturally, paid.

The charge for vatting wines before the increase of 71 per cent. was 12s. 6d. per hundred gallons of wine and 8s. 8d. per hundred gallons of spirits. The charge for bottling, corking, wrapping, packing and so on is over 3s. per dozen pints. There are other charges for racking, fortifying, sampling and branding.

This Christmas there is much more of a rush than before the war, because in the good old days the wines and spirits were arriving all the year round. To-day the bulk of the buying is by the big retailers and is done for Christmas. An exception to the rule is claret. Last year there were large imports of Bordeaux wines. As, however, restaurants and hotels are keeping their prices at such absurd heights, many of the wine shippers in this country are not using their quota of Bordeaux wines at all. Champagne and brandy, indeed, are the only imported wines and spirits which are still enjoying a "sellers'" market.

Sooner or later the Government will have to reduce the charges on French wines, spirits and liqueurs, but even before that the hotels and restaurants will have to reduce their charges drastically. Already one or two hotels in the country and a handful of restaurants in London are cutting their profits per bottle from an automatic 100 per cent. to 50 per cent. and finding that they are at last being able to shift their stock. According to the wine shippers, however, neither wines nor imported spirits will ever drop to their proper level until the Government withdraws its "Maximum Price Order." As soon as this is done, clarets, burgundies, champagnes, brandies, moselles, hocks, in fact, every wine and spirit with the exception of whisky, will take a delightful dive in price.

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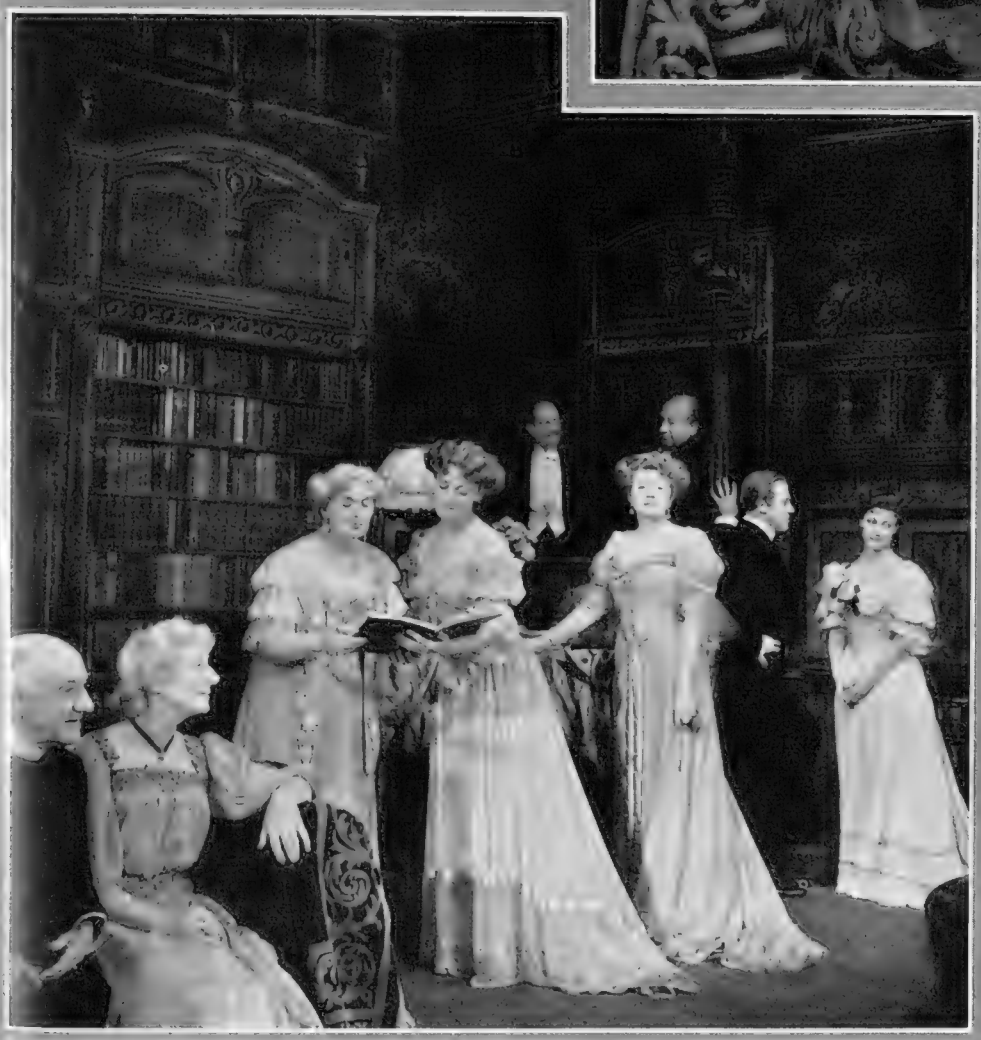
ON THE LAWN AT CHEDLEIGH : Irene Browne as Lady Faringford and Audrey Fildes as Stella in the revival of St. John Hankin's comedy, "The Return of the Prodigal," at the Globe Theatre. The play was produced by Peter Glenville, with décor by Cecil Beaton

JOHN GIELGUD AND AUDREY FILDES IN "THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL" : It is two years since John Gielgud was last seen on the London stage, and the part he has chosen is that of Eustace Jackson, the airy ne'er-do-well of St. John Hankin's comedy of Edwardian family life



IN THE DRAWING-ROOM AT CHEDLEIGH : The company includes (left to right) : David Keir as the Rev. Pratt ; Nora Nicholson as Mrs. Pratt ; Dame Sybil Thorndike as Mrs. Jackson ; Rachel Kempson as Violet ; Denis Cowles as Sir John Faringford ; Irene Browne as Lady Faringford ; David Horne as Mr. Jackson ; Walter Hudd as Henry and Audrey Fildes as Stella

THE RETURN OF MR. GIELGUD

In His Revival of St. John Hankin's Edwardian Comedy "The Return of the Prodigal"

EDWARDIAN SCENE : Lady Faringford inquires of her daughter Stella whether she has had a proposal from Henry Jackson, Eustace's serious-minded elder brother, while Violet Jackson, their sister, watches the scene

John Gielgud has chosen an Edwardian comedy, *The Return of the Prodigal*, by St. John Hankin, for his return to the West End stage. In it he plays the prodigal son of a wealthy family, accused by his father of being "useless and worthless." But he has charm, and the part gives Mr. Gielgud the opportunity to display his considerable talent as a comedian. Since his appearance in *Crime and Punishment* two years ago, Gielgud has been in America, where he produced and played in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Love for Love*, and *Medea*. This was the Robinson Jeffers' translation of Euripides' tragedy, which he produced at the Edinburgh Festival and later in London, with Eileen Herlie in the name-part. In America *Medea* was a resounding success, and with Judith Anderson playing Medea and Gielgud himself as Jason, it ran for seven months. Finally, he produced *Crime and Punishment* there. For *The Return of the Prodigal*, he has assembled a brilliant cast with Dame Sybil Thorndike as the prodigal's devoted mother ; Walter Hudd as his earnest elder brother ; and Audrey Fildes as the lovely Stella Faringford

The World of Books—By VERNON FANE

DR. BEEBE AND THE PLATYHELMINTH

A Distinguished Writer who can Cater for the Layman in Scientific Matters

DR. WILLIAM BEEBE is one of that distinguished number who can write about scientific matters to the full comprehension of the layman, and even if from time to time he includes such phrases as "I had one advantage over such a platyhelminth," he is not jeering, but simply comparing his status with that of the flatworm. BOOK OF BAYS (Bodley Head. 15s.) would be worth studying for the photographs and sketches alone, but the book's real value is in the text, for in this Dr. Beebe describes his 3,000-mile voyage in the yacht *Zaca* round the coastline of Lower California, Mexico, Central America and Colombia, exploring all the bays and inlets, and making innumerable observations of sea and animal life.

The story of the Women's Voluntary Services in wartime has now been written, and it makes an extraordinarily impressive account.

WOMEN IN GREEN (Heinemann. 12s. 6d.) has been written by Mr. Charles Graves, and written primarily as a human story, though he includes such vital statistics as might prove to the unconvinced that a voluntary service need have nothing, except the priceless gift of improvisation, of the amateur about it. The jobs that the W.V.S. undertook seem to have been legion, and included innumerable activities, from the feeding and clothing of bombed families to salvage collections and help with the National Savings campaign. They were constantly working in danger of their own lives, but Mr. Graves is able to tell of at least a few incidents that were more funny than grim, as when a spinster member of the W.V.S. offered to take a baby in arms by train. "It turned out to be coal black. One passenger asked whether it was her own, and another asked how she kept its hair so curly." All in all, a remarkable record of a remarkable war effort.

THE SUNLIT LAND (Cassell. 16s.) of Mr. Charles Barrett's title is Queensland, a territory that the author has explored and travelled through very widely, and which is, by choice, the country of his adoption. Mr. Barrett writes with cheerful informality of his voyages in the brilliant winters and grilling summers of Queensland, but the chief interest of his book comes from the fact that he is a born naturalist, and knows how to describe his finds and the results of his observation in such a way that we can appreciate and enjoy them without the strenuous effort of making the discoveries for ourselves.

Mr. Daniel Reese, of New Zealand, has chosen to call his autobiography by a sporting and provocative title. WAS IT ALL CRICKET? (Allen and Unwin. 25s.) bears on its cover a reproduction of a photograph of a 1903 cricketing team featuring the author and, even more impressively, W. G. Grace, and it is true to say that this book of reminiscences contains many good cricketing stories and parables, but it is also and mainly, the life of a man with an adventurous spirit who has travelled all over the world, who was a marine engineer and who knew a very great deal about British tramp steamers.

THE PATTERN OF SOVIET DOMINATION (Sampson Low. 15s.) is written by a man who might be supposed to have some authority in discussing the subject. He is Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, who was Polish Prime Minister in England after the death of Sikorski, who returned to Warsaw as chairman of the Polish Peasant Party, the only party in Poland besides the Communists, who was sentenced to death in 1947 by a Russian military court, and who again escaped to England and freedom.

"Do my personal experiences matter?" he writes. "They do not, nor do the experiences of others who have been forced out or persecuted during Russia's new offence against freedom. . . . Only this matters: Red Russia is at war against the dignity and place of the human being, and against all Governments which afford citizens individual rights."

ALPINE TRAGEDY (Allen and Unwin. 18s.) may rightly be described as a sombre book, since it is a collection of stories, or, rather, of accounts, of some of the most spectacular of mountain accidents in the Alps during the nineteenth century. Mr. Charles Gos's melancholy and well-documented work has been translated by Mr. Malcolm Barnes from the French, and is appropriately illustrated by the engravings of Edward Whymper, one of the most famous of climbers to lose his life.

I liked THE ROSE AND THE YEW TREE (Heinemann. 8s. 6d.), though it is a strange enough novel, and I am not sure that its story is ever quite resolved. Miss Mary Westmacott, however, though a writer new to me, has a style which is not only smoothly competent but shows depths of perception and of sensitive character drawing.

The story itself is unusual. A man who has won the V.C. in the war and may therefore be said to have exceptional physical courage, contests a Cornish seat in the General Election. He stands in the Conservative interest, but with cynicism rather than conviction, for he is an opportunist who is perfectly ready to capitalise on his heroic reputation in order to get what he wants. In the little town he meets a pale and lovely young girl and, through an improbable series of incidents, their lives are linked to what may or may not be called the destruction of both. The author leaves the reader to his own conclusions. It is an odd book, but I think you will find it rewarding.

NEW LIFE FOR THE THATCHER'S ART: Many people have deplored the dying-out of thatching as a craft, but there is a possibility that the entry of women into the business may save it. For instance, at Burford, in the Cotswolds, the Hon. Mrs. Falkiner, after a course of training under the Government Vocational Training Scheme, has set up a thatching business with her brother, the Hon. Verney Cave, and she is seen in this picture at work on a rick at Leafield. For some years the number of thatchers in the country has been decreasing, and the demand for their services is increasing enormously. This has given Mrs. Falkiner and her brother much more work than they can cope with. She tackles her jobs with enthusiasm, and says it's a fascinating life, with something new to learn each working day

THE VEILED FOUNTAIN (W. H. Allen. 10s. 6d.) has its setting for the most part in India, in Kashmir and in the Himalayas, and it would be safe to say that it is free of important political implications. Mr. Harry Hervey's novel is first and foremost a love-story, though it is embroidered with the intellectual questings of a young English musician in search of his soul. Sometimes Mr. Hervey may be accused of over-writing. But when Mr. Hervey is being less fancy he is very readable, and with an indulgent eye for the purple patches, I think you might like this.

Mr. Morchard Bishop is a novelist worthy of remark, though I confess that I am neither moved nor altogether satisfied with his work. His new novel, VALERIE (Gollancz. 9s. 6d.) is the story of a woman and of her different reactions to the four men in her life. These are her father, who is an eccentric; her first lover, a healthy, egotistical and ordinary young man; her husband, a warped and unpleasant creature, and her lover after marriage, who in many respects resembles her first.

All four men have a profound selfishness in common, though the woman spends the better part of a lifetime in finding that out. From a deliciously pretty girl she becomes a worn and bewildered woman, whose passionate nature is perpetually at war with her apologetic habit of mind. I found the book depressing rather than saddening.

LOVERS AND FRIENDS (Harrap. 10s. 6d.) is a love-story, and with no other complications for the young lovers than a middle-class Montagu and Capulet family opposition, and a mutual lack of money. In spite of what might seem such a straightforward plot, this novel of Miss Helen MacInnes' is really charming, sometimes a little stiff in its writing, but constant in its warm sentiment and in its good sense.

LEGACY OF CANVAS

A New Estimate of Kneller, the Court Painter who Ran a Portrait Factory

When Godfrey Kneller died in 1723 he left behind him in his studio in Great Queen Street some 800 unfinished pictures, which his assistant, Edward Byng, was to complete and sell in conjunction with Lady Kneller. That vast legacy of canvas bears testimony to Kneller's prolific output, and it accounts, too, for the unevenness of much of the work that bears his name. Kneller, who was chief Court painter to succeeding English monarchs from 1680, surrounded himself with assistants. His studio became a veritable portrait factory, with Kneller painting in the heads of his sitters and, for the most part, leaving bodies and backgrounds to his young colleagues. Ten reigning sovereigns in all sat to Kneller, and most of the persons of rank, wealth and eminence in his day. Lord Killanin, in his new biography, SIR GODFREY KNELLER AND HIS TIMES: 1646-1723 (B. T. Batsford. 42s.), reckons, indeed, that the artist's total output was in the region of 5,000 portraits. It has been Lord Killanin's self-appointed task to sift some of the wheat from the chaff in regard to Kneller's work, and the result is an important contribution to the history of Stuart and early Georgian painting. Appendices to the book are particularly valuable in that they show where the best of Kneller's work is now preserved, and also catalogue some of the more important mezzotints after Kneller. For the rest, Lord Killanin writes with the fluency of the practised journalist, summarising the artist's success story—for he won vast adulation in his own day—and not omitting anecdotes of his eccentric displays of arrogance. As frontispiece the author has chosen "The Chinese Convert," one of the gems of the King's collection, an inevitable choice, perhaps, for Kneller rated it as his finest work and posterity has endorsed his view.

Marcel Proust, the darling of French Society at the close of the nineteenth century, was perhaps something of a dilettante, but, withal, he was a social chronicler, an analyst of the human heart and an interpreter of civilisation. To read Proust in the original was not always easy for his French contemporaries, and he has presented special difficulties for the translator. Gerald Hopkins, in MARCEL PROUST: A SELECTION FROM HIS MISCELLANEOUS WRITINGS (Allan Wingate. 10s. 6d.), has made a bold effort at faithful interpretation, and he keeps not a little of "the cut and texture of Proust's peculiar verbal tailoring." The essay on Jacques Emile Blanche has a nostalgic quality with its memories of Auteuil, the scene of Proust's childhood and youth; his essay on Flaubert, that master of graphic detail, is important as representing one stylist's view of another stylist, one romantic's view of another romantic.

Oscar Wilde may not be particularly remembered as a poet, but few will deny that THE BALLAD OF READING GAOL (Castle Press. 8s. 6d.) has passages of great power. Arthur Wragg, in his introduction to this new edition, which he also illustrates, claims that it is Wilde's masterpiece "because it was the only time he allowed himself to express a deep and genuine emotion." Wragg's line drawings are highly dramatic, at times melodramatic.

Sir Robert Bignold is not unique among insurance chieftains in plunging into print, but his memoirs, FIVE GENERATIONS OF THE BIGNOLD FAMILY (B. T. Batsford. 21s.), are something much more than a well-bound catalogue of the financial progress of the Norwich Union, and the horizon is infinitely wider than the business world of Norfolk. Sir Robert wastes no words, and he is seldom dull, save, perhaps, when going a trifle too deeply into parochial conflicts. Accounts of his travels are always lively.

Two companion books with a highly individual country flavour are A WILTSHIRE HOME (B. T. Batsford. 12s. 6d.), in which Dorothy Devenish tells the story of her childhood days at Little Durnford before the age of privilege had quite expired, and AN ENGLISH FARMHOUSE AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD (Max Parrish. 21s.), in which Geoffrey Grigson gives a deeply knowledgeable picture of farm building construction. Also for the countryman is ENGLISH PLACE-NAMES (B. T. Batsford. 12s. 6d.), by H. G. Stokes. In addition to explaining the origin of most of the leading place-names of towns and villages, Mr. Stokes dwells also upon some of the oddities he has come upon, such as Christmas Pie (which lies a mere 33 miles from London), Pity Me, Indian Queens, and Come-to-Good. What a rich and wonderful treasure-house of words is the map of England, declares Mr. Stokes.

JACK BILBO: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY (The Modern Art Gallery. 4 guineas). The pretentious memoirs of one who, self-confessedly, "radiates an amazing and almost uncanny personal magnetism."

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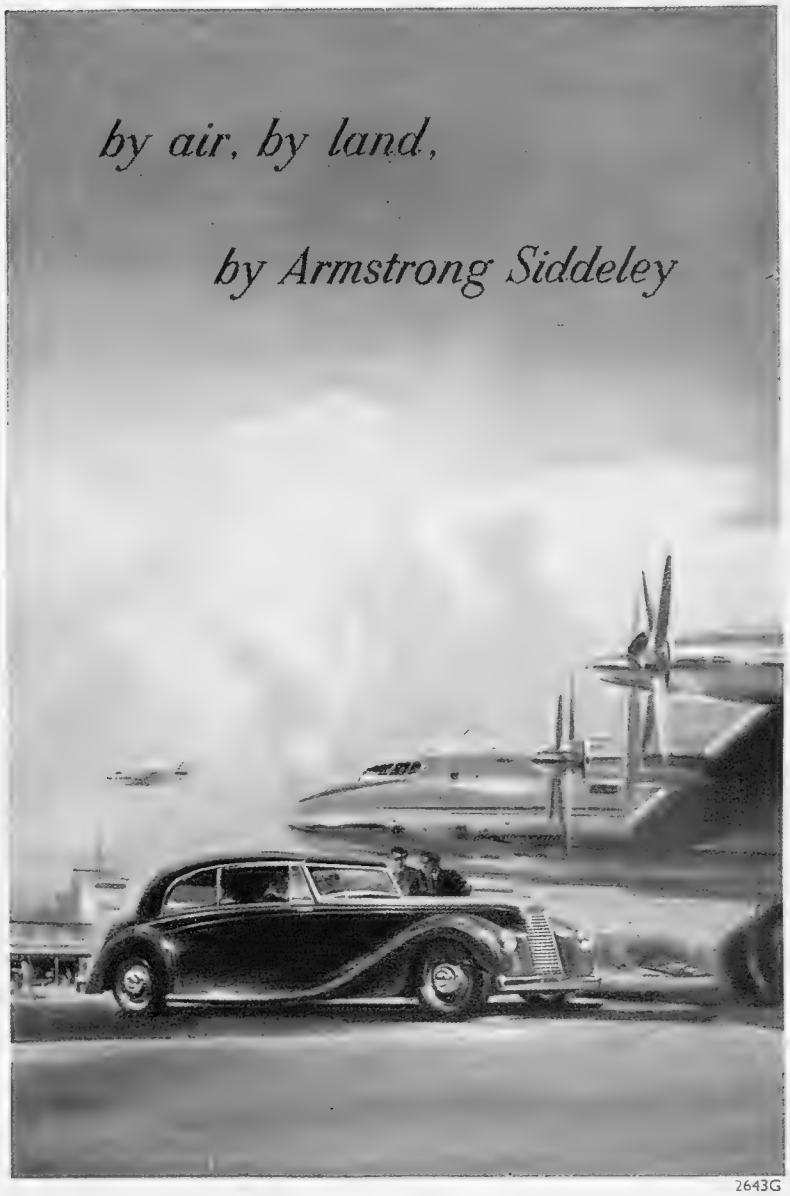

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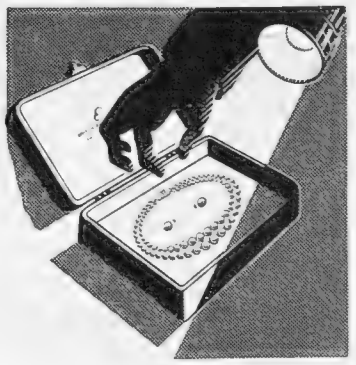

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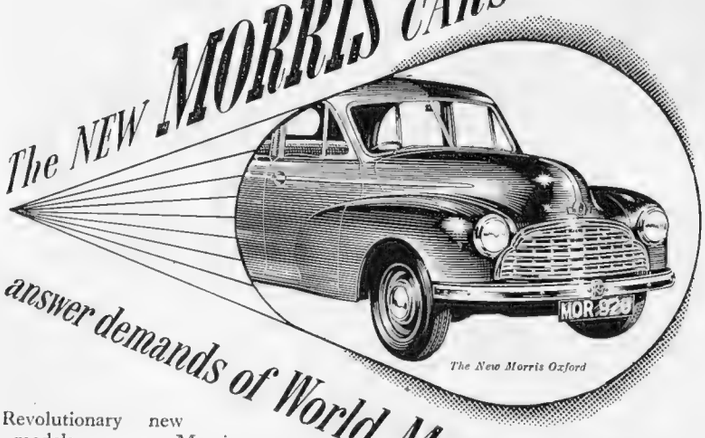

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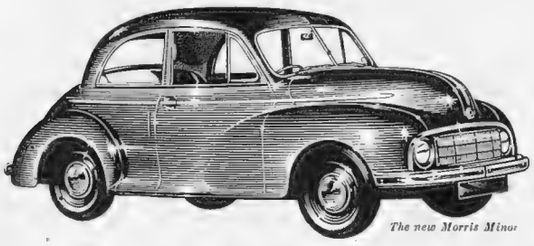
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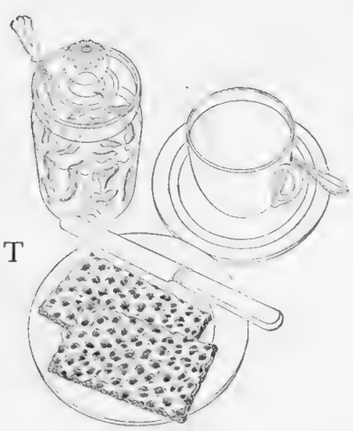

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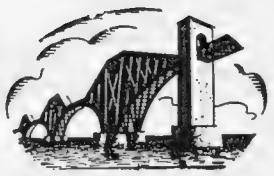

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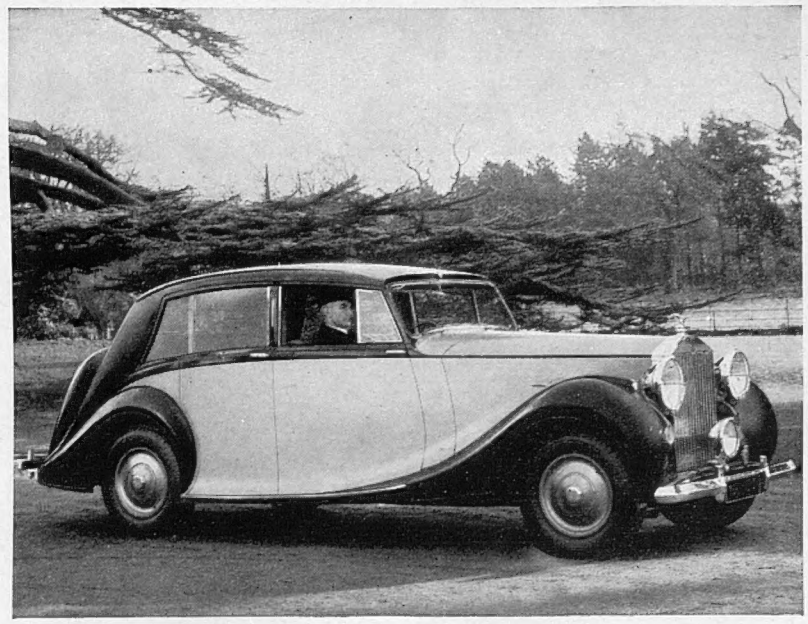

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As well as developing his method of working platinum commercially, he did a great deal of purely academic research and discovered two new metals. The first was called palladium and the second rhodium because of the rose pink colour of many of its compounds. He also investigated the production of electricity by chemical means, and carried out many experiments in optics. Among his inventions was that of the cryophorus — an instrument for showing how the temperature of water falls as it evaporates. Wollaston had unusually keen vision and steady hands, being able to write on glass with a diamond, in a script so small that normal people could only read the characters through a microscope. He enjoyed a considerable reputation among his contemporaries for the accuracy of his work and his resourcefulness as a practical scientist. He died in 1828. Every piece of platinum apparatus in the laboratories of the world is a monument to the work of this British scientist.

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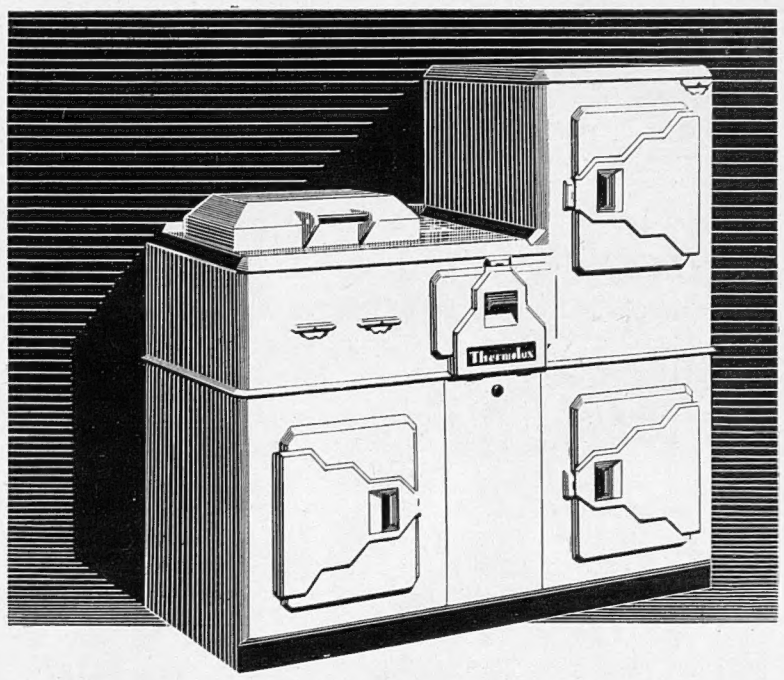

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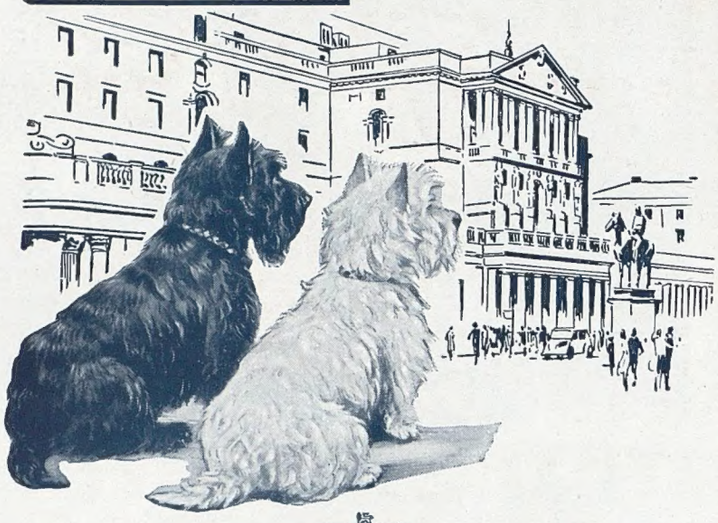

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